TEN FOR MELROSE

DESIGNS FOR SAUK RIVER PARK

Melrose, Minnesota

Department of Landscape Architecture
Center for Community Studies
University of Minnesota
December 1989

Sauk River Park: The Central Park of Melrose

Public Opinion, Design and Planning

In the fall of 1989 ten students in their final year of landscape architectural design at the University of Minnesota, under the guidance of Professor Lance Neckar, began the process of redesigning Sauk River Park in the context of opinions about the site expressed by Melrose residents. This public survey process, and public participation in general, are central to all projects such as this one sponsored by the Center for Community Studies. The survey process was initiated on October 13, 1989 at a meeting in Melrose (to which approximately 15 residents came) and followed by a mailing of the survey to another 45 residents (with approximately 20 responses).

The results of the survey seemed to indicate that most residents felt that the park was of central symbolic importance to Melrose because of its location on the Sauk River. Further, many residents expressed the opinion that the most frequented or prized area of the park was near the river and the shelter. The provision of softball fields was another aspect which many respondents identified as an important attraction. Some respondents noted potential "conflicts" between the use of the two spaces, and this idea of "conflict" also came into concern in regard to the provision of campsites, the site of which is on the river and the access road to which wraps the two ball fields. Many citizens opined that camping was acceptable, and some said, desirable; but there was negligible opinion for the expansion of these types of facilities. Surprisingly few people mentioned important connections to the park from neighboring areas, although the centrality of the park in terms of its relationship to downtown, the high school and residences is undoubtedly of some basic importance. Most people seemed to hold the opinion that the park was generally an acceptable open space with use of active and passive facilities that might be expanded by the development of the fish rearing ponds. Interestingly although the river was noted by many people as an identity factor for Melrose, few people noted any activities other than picnics or fishing that now occur or could occur on the river, and several people noted safety issues related to children and the river. See Appendix for survey summary.

The students were given the challenge to take these opinions and respond to problems of the site in terms of practical and theoretical concepts of park design. First, some basic problems of the site:

1.) The park's boundaries are not well defined nor are specific areas within the park.
2.) The topography of existing park land is unvegetated, and the soils are quite limiting for both plants and structures.
3.) There are few significant stands of trees.
4.) The entrances to the park are very poorly defined and not strongly related to the river.

5.) There are no pedestrian or bicycle paths in the park.
6.) There are important edge conditions to which the park could better respond, e.g. the park is effectively separate from the millpond, old Kraft plant, and dam site.

Practically and theoretically these problems suggested solutions based on precedents of park design. Parks, archetypically, have been enclosed spaces, originally to keep animals and, since the 19th century, to set them apart from the rest of the privately held parts of towns and cities so that the essential democracy is preserved. Entry to a park is often a highly structured affair which affords a prospect or is intended to transform the psychological state of the recreationist. Practically, boundary and entry become very important in park design.

A park is a complex of parts - some active, some passive, some structural, some not. The parts needed to be variously defined and linked in space depending upon how the experience of recreation is conceived. There are many theories about recreational experience, but most would agree that it is an intentional activity - it is not just free time - and that we do it with some objective; and further that this objective or these objectives can be defined in space (and time). For some the objective is singular: the softball field, the riverfront walk or the bench beneath a tree. For others there are (or will be) a network of objectives that are defined in more complex even ritualistic terms that relate to multiple spaces and time concerns, e.g. a daily run along the river, around the rearing ponds, under the bridge to the millpond, at sunset or twilight or in the morning, or bicycling over the new freeway bridge, down the new green-way, or down main street, across the river bridge through the new bicycle entry to the new swimming pond.

Parks are both about these complex recreational behaviors and more single purpose activities. Most parks must embrace both kinds of objectives; certainly Sauk River Park must.

The ten designs that are presented in this document are not intended precisely as the sort planning materials that Melrose citizens and officials are, perhaps, accustomed to evaluating when you plan parks. They do not relate well to a five year planning horizon. They are thirty or fifty year "plans", as all plans for parks must be regardless of how they are phased. They are, we hope, ten different ideas about how to think about park planning as a long term and phased process of defining spaces for recreational behaviors and activities in a complex whole. This complex of parts must be a vision that can evolve into a long term future for Sauk River Park.

Lance M. Neckar
November 20, 1989

Jeff Buboltz

The intent of this project is to provide insight into the value of this park to the community of Melrose and all future users. Sauk River Park is a great asset; time, effort, and work has gone into making it what it is today. The meanings and experiences that you and your children have in this park will last forever. It is my purpose to address and resolve current problems as expressed in earlier meetings and surveys; internal circulation, deteriorating image, park boundary, facilities, etc. Second, I would like to develop more fully the park's potential for greater use satisfaction and enjoyment.

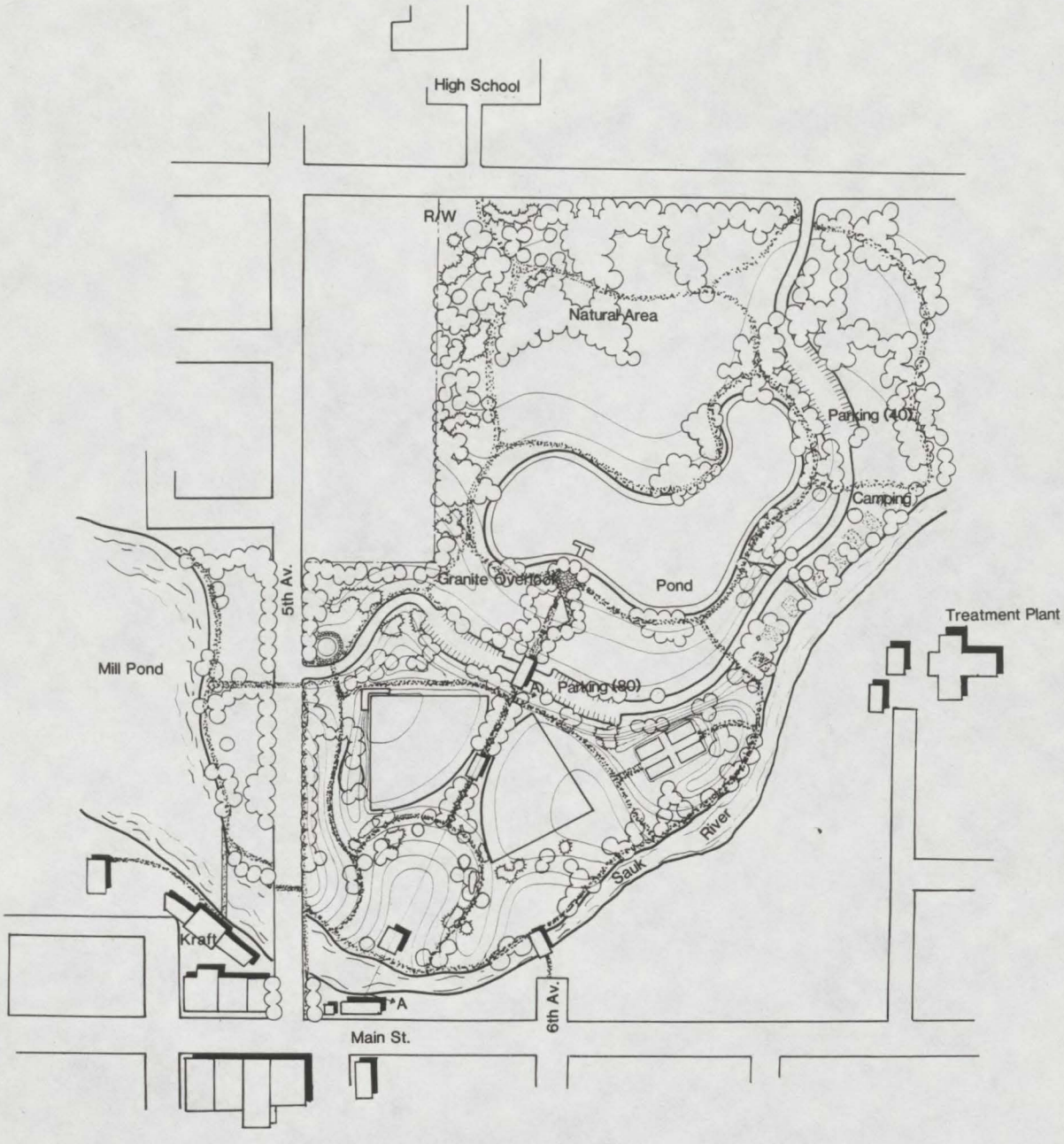
In this design, the large amount of money and time spent on redoing the two softball fields is saved. Relocation is not feasible or practical. Instead enhance the two diamonds and the river by creating landforms and structure to complement the activities taking place. A preview of the park's performance stage and covered bridge is seen from 5th Avenue. As you enter the park you are greeted by a grand fountain using water piped in from the Mill Pond. A view to the large fishing pond is framed by trees on either side. The park users needs are then satisfied by the bituminous walk to the ballfields and the central axis which proceeds to the river enhancing the performance stage. The walkway trellis is constructed of wood with the inside of metal. An 8" pathway connecting the high school and downtown will be used by young and old. The northern end of the park is left open giving high school students and visitors a chance to study the natural ecological systems that occur. Kite flying, cross country skiing, and walking add to the energy release.

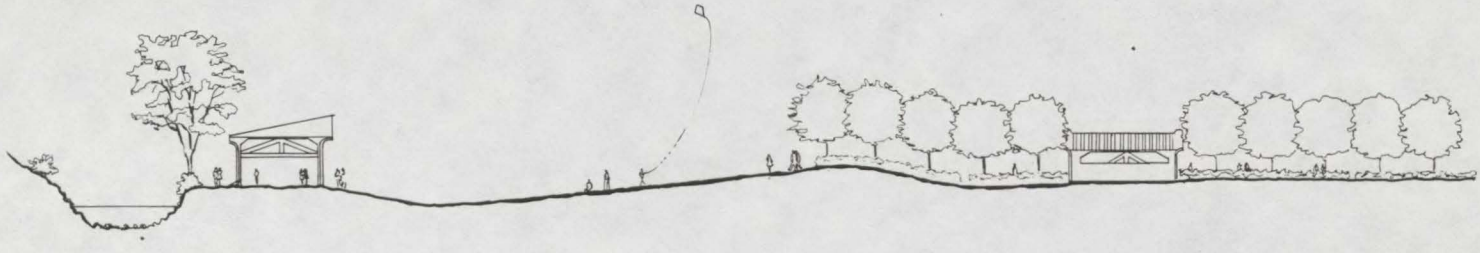
The amenities that Melrose has are incredible, but citizens need to take charge.

<u>Phases:</u>

5 year	Construct performance stage, grade site, installing pathways, parking lots, relocate play equipment.
10 year	Install entrance fountain, covered bridge, walkway trellis, steps leading to overlook, establish prairie study area.
20 year	Continue maintaining fishing pond, tree plantings and upkeep on architectural elements.
30-50 yr.	Continue to schedule summer festivals, high school ecology and science classes, softball tournaments. Maintain trees and replace as needed.

The thoughts and ideas contained in this project are creative yet realistic, and may help contribute to making a quality experience to those who use this park.





Section A - Primary Entertainment Area

SAUK RIVER PARK

Melrose, Mn.

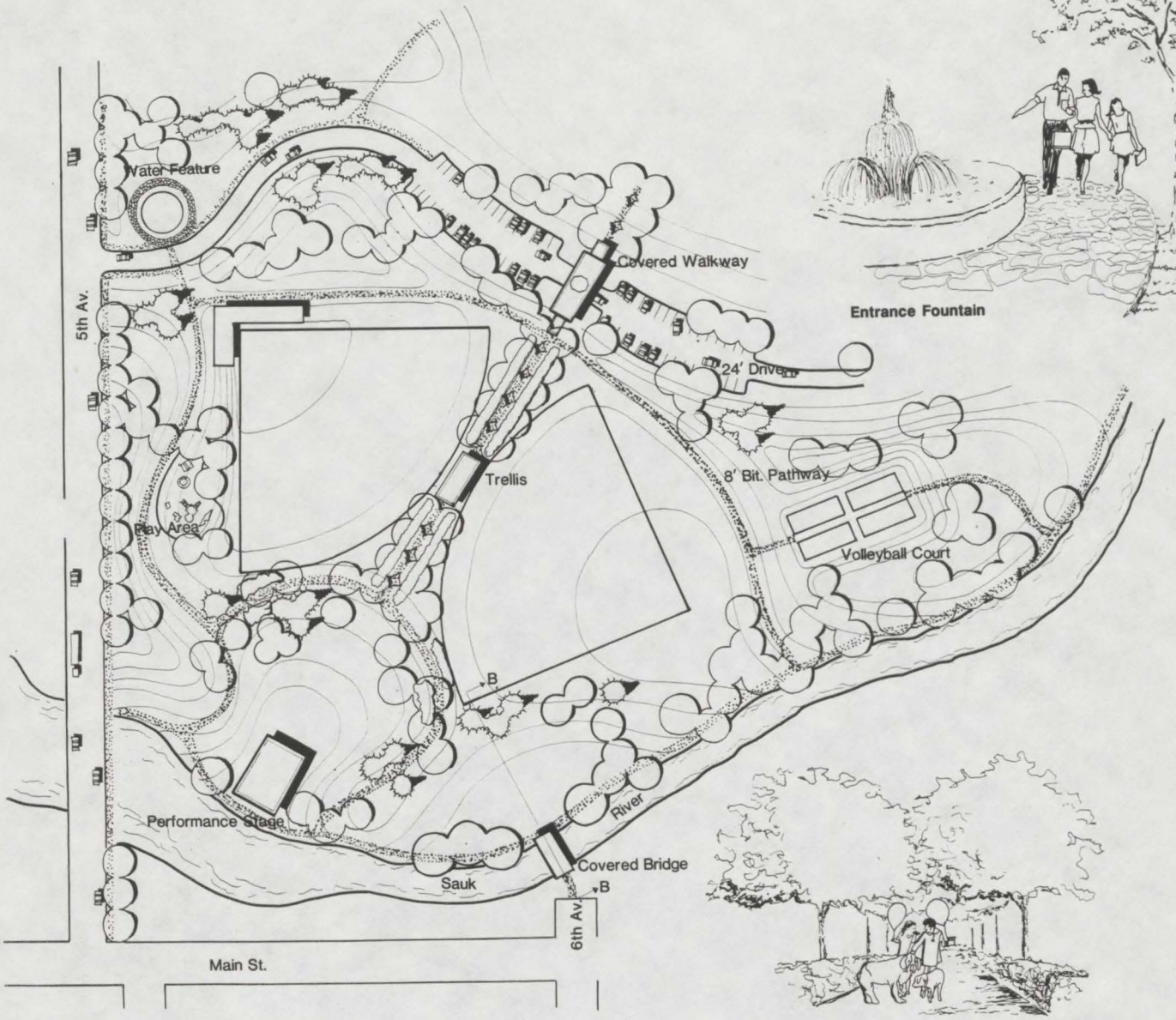
MASTER PLAN

Design by: Jeff Buboltz

November 20, 1989

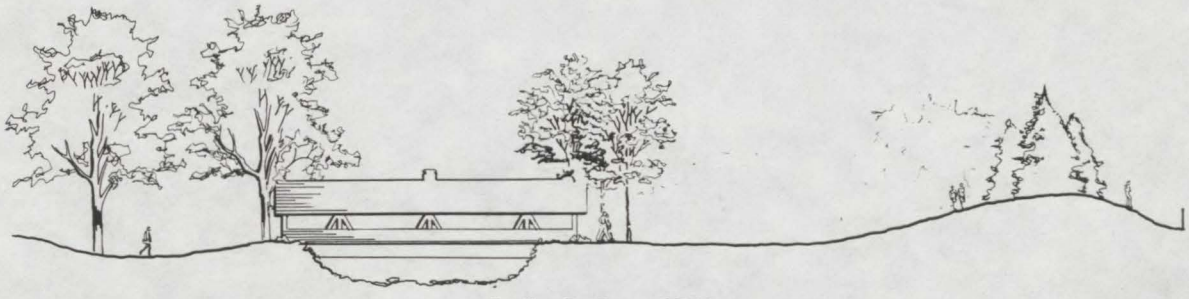
Scale 1" = 100'

0 50 100



Entrance Fountain

Perspective - Through Crabapple Allee to Performance Stage



Section B - Covered Bridge

SAUK RIVER PARK

Melrose, Mn.

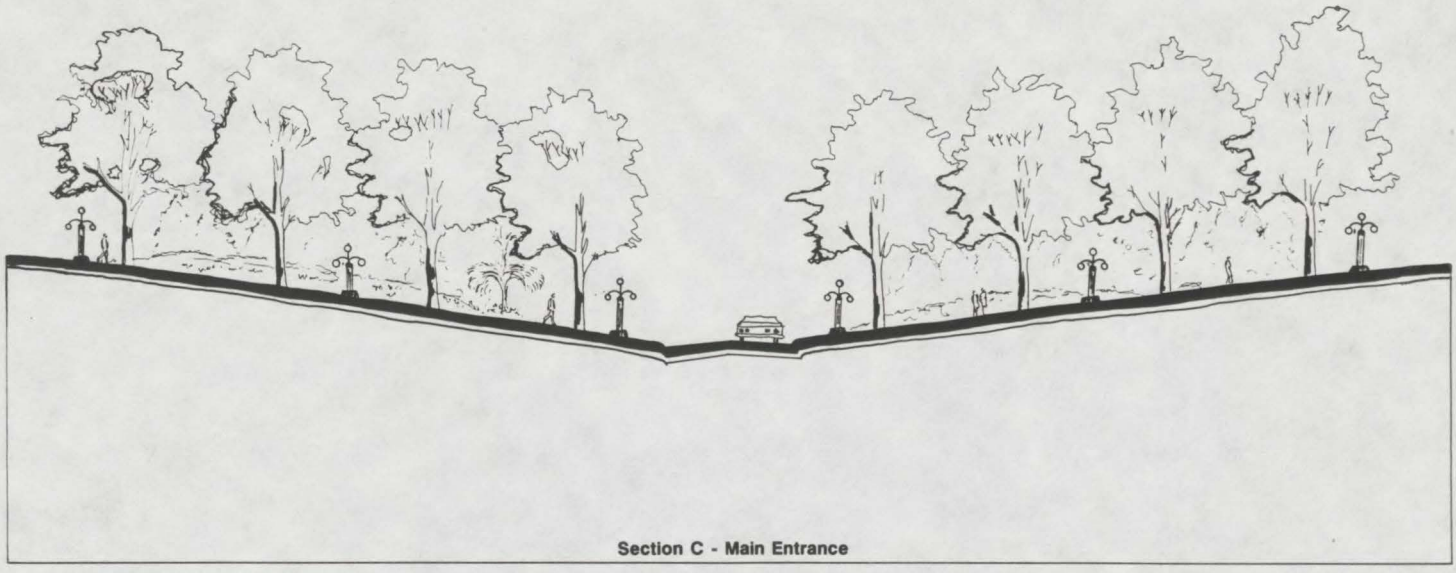
MASTER DETAIL

Design by: Jeff Buboltz

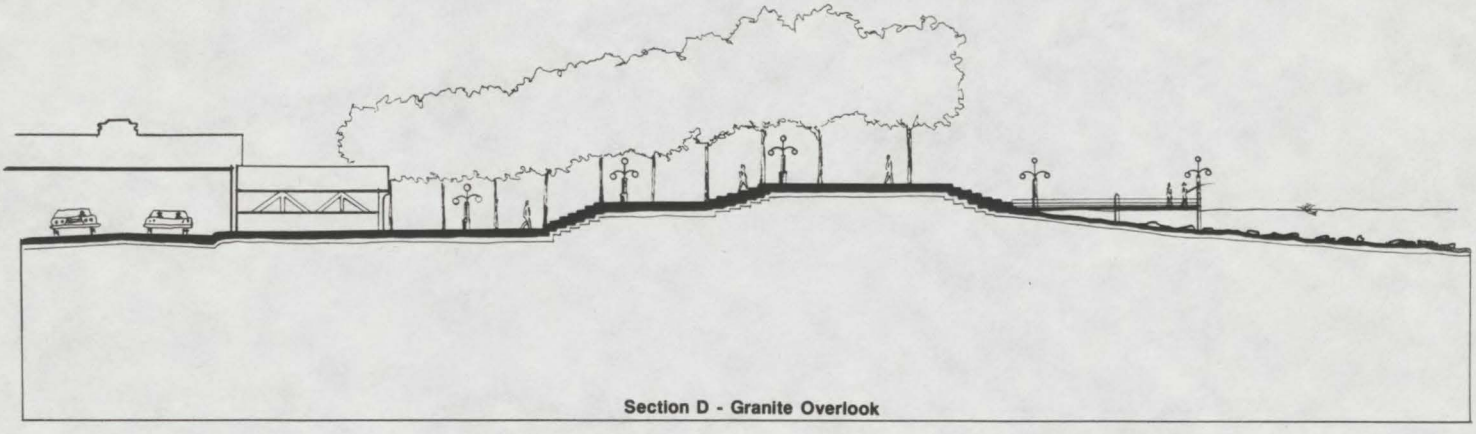
November 20, 1989

Scale 1" = 50'

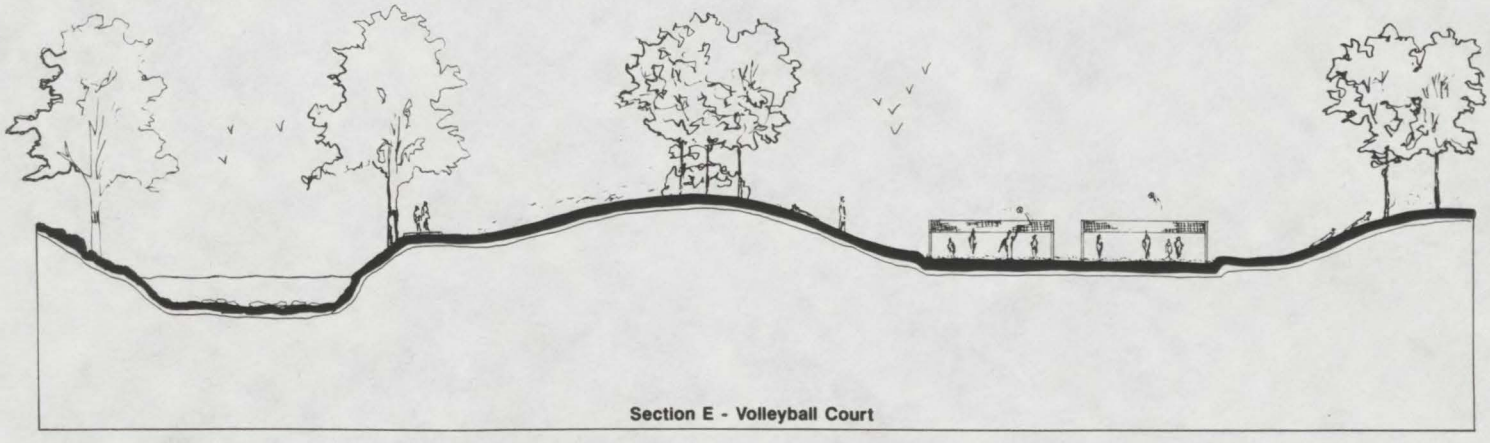
0 50



Section C - Main Entrance



Section D - Granite Overlook



Section E - Volleyball Court

SAUK RIVER PARK

Melrose, Mn.

Sections

Design by: Jeff Buboltz

November 20, 1989

Scale 1" = 10'

0 10

Jean Garbarini

Melrose's central park, formally Sauk River Park - is to become the main attraction in Melrose, MN. The new park provides the essential elements necessary to attract people of all ages with differing interests, throughout all of the seasons.

The simplest change, which creates the largest impact on the park is the redesign and addition of the entrances. Several pedestrian entrances were created to make the park easily accessible from all possible directions. These entrances create a strong connection between the park and the community which surrounds it, and uses it. This community includes the high school, which is linked to the town via the park by a dramatic entrance.

The park appeals to a large percentage of the community by providing areas for diverse forms of recreation. Softball, pick-up games, walking, jogging, cross-country skiing , skating, fishing, picnicking, and camping are some examples. Also provided is a performance area and children's play lot. One goal in providing diverse recreation possibilities is attracting more use by all ages, especially the elderly of the community.

Fish will be returned to the park via the reconfiguration and flooding of the fish rearing pond. This provides not only a visual attraction, but also potential for new recreational activities in the park. A foot bridge spans the pond and leads to the performance area. This area is composed of a series of south facing retaining walls leading up the northerly slope of the park and terminating at the high school. Users will be warmed by the sun while observing musicians, etc., from sodded floors contained within retaining walls which follow the natural slope of the hill.

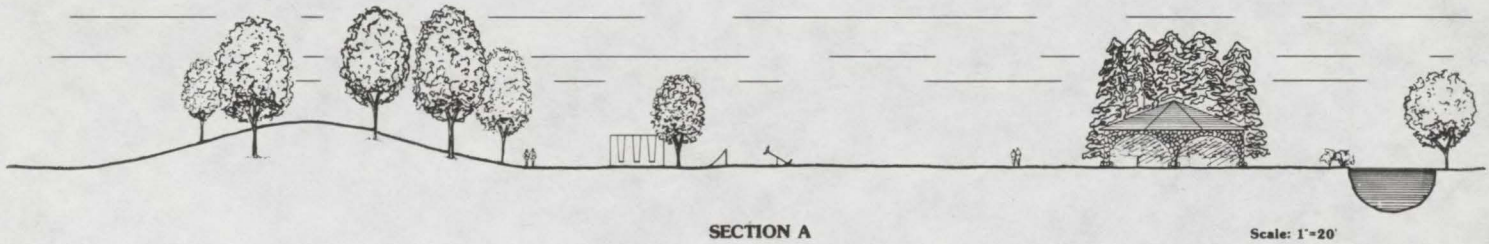
All structures in the design are made of granite which is a native material to the area. Costs can be saved by using the stock piles of granite boulders observed in farmer's fields throughout the area.

Family and community events are held in the newly designed pavilion. The pavilion is located south of the ball diamonds but separated from them by earth mounds. The pavilion is an open structure providing views to the river and children's play area from inside it.

The most powerful goal of the design is to bring the park into the community, and the community into the park. This done by taking advantage of the given positive aesthetic qualities of the site, and providing additional attractions which enhance the inherent beauty of Sauk River Park.

Phasing Schedule:

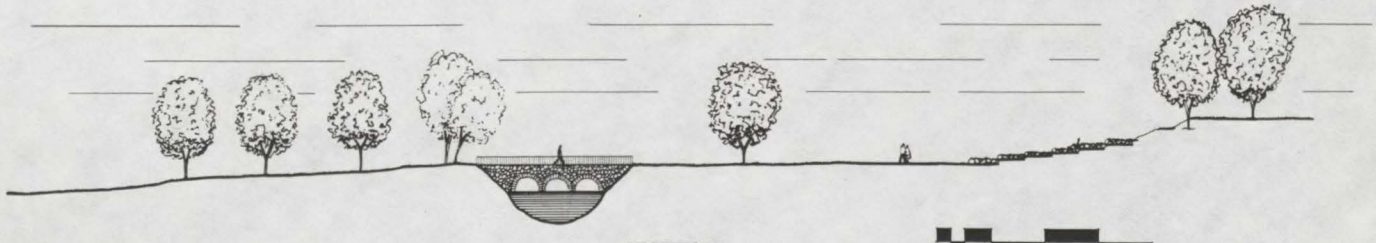
1.) Landform/pond reconfiguration, campsite, softball field relocation, planting in entrance and southern half of site.
2.) Bridge construction and remaining planting.
3.) Pavilion construction and pedestrian connection to Kraft Building.
4.) Performance area construction.



SECTION A

Scale: 1"=20'

0 5' 10' 20' 40' 60' 80'



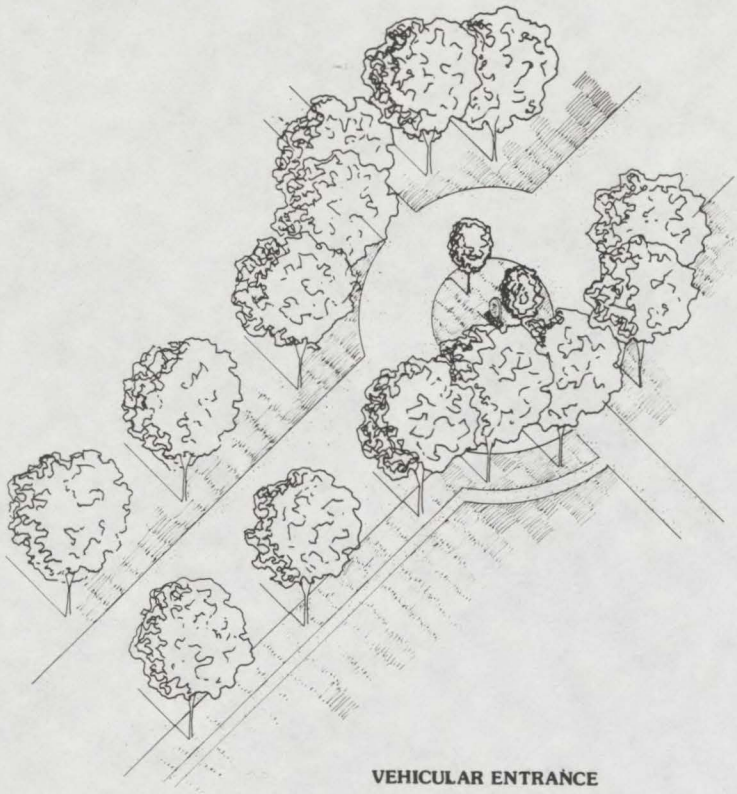
SECTION B

0 5' 10' 20' 40' 60' 80' Scale: 1"=20'

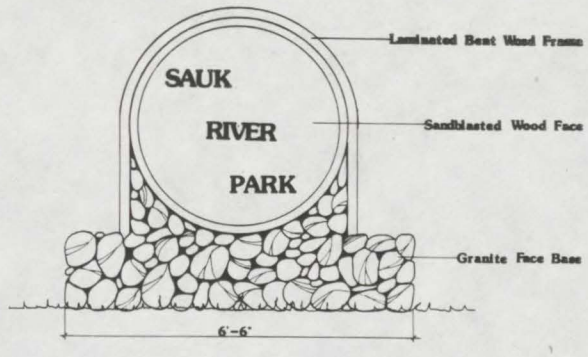
SAUK RIVER PARK
MELROSE, MN

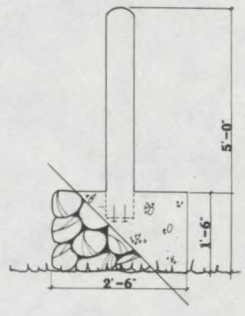
MASTER PLAN

JEAN M. GARBARINI
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

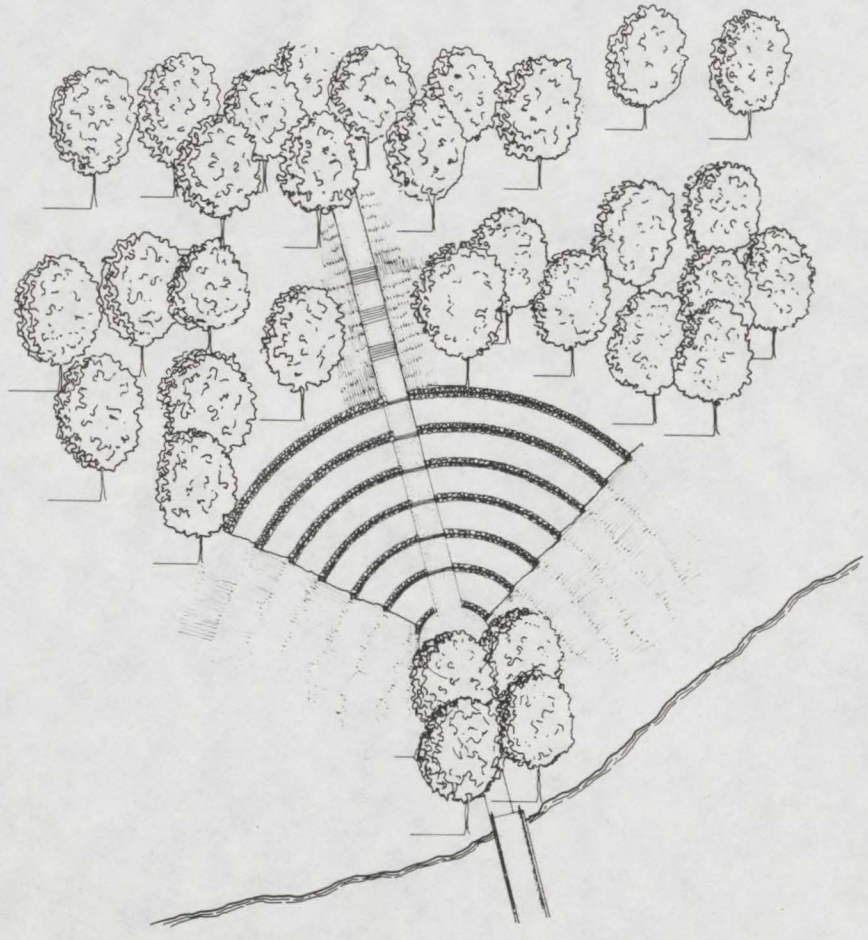


VEHICULAR ENTRANCE





PARK SIGN DETAILS

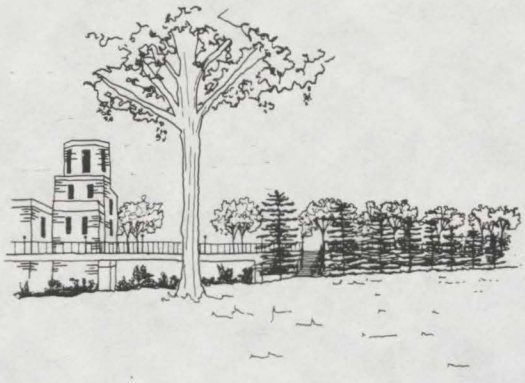


PERFORMANCE AREA/AMPHITHEATER

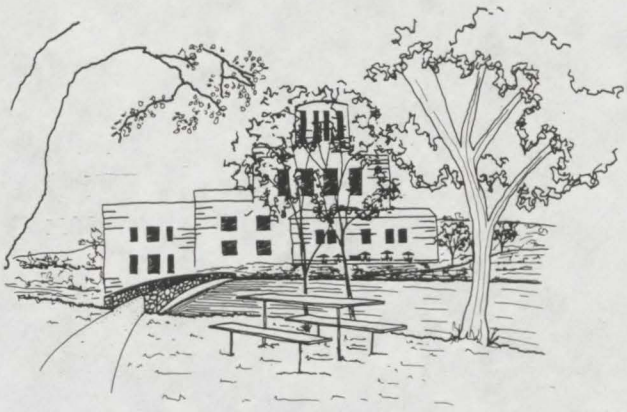
SAUK RIVER PARK
MELROSE, MN

ILLUSTRATIONS/DETAILS

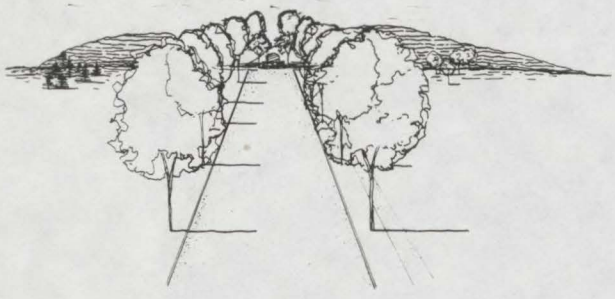
JEAN M. GARBARINI
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCE FROM 5TH AVE.

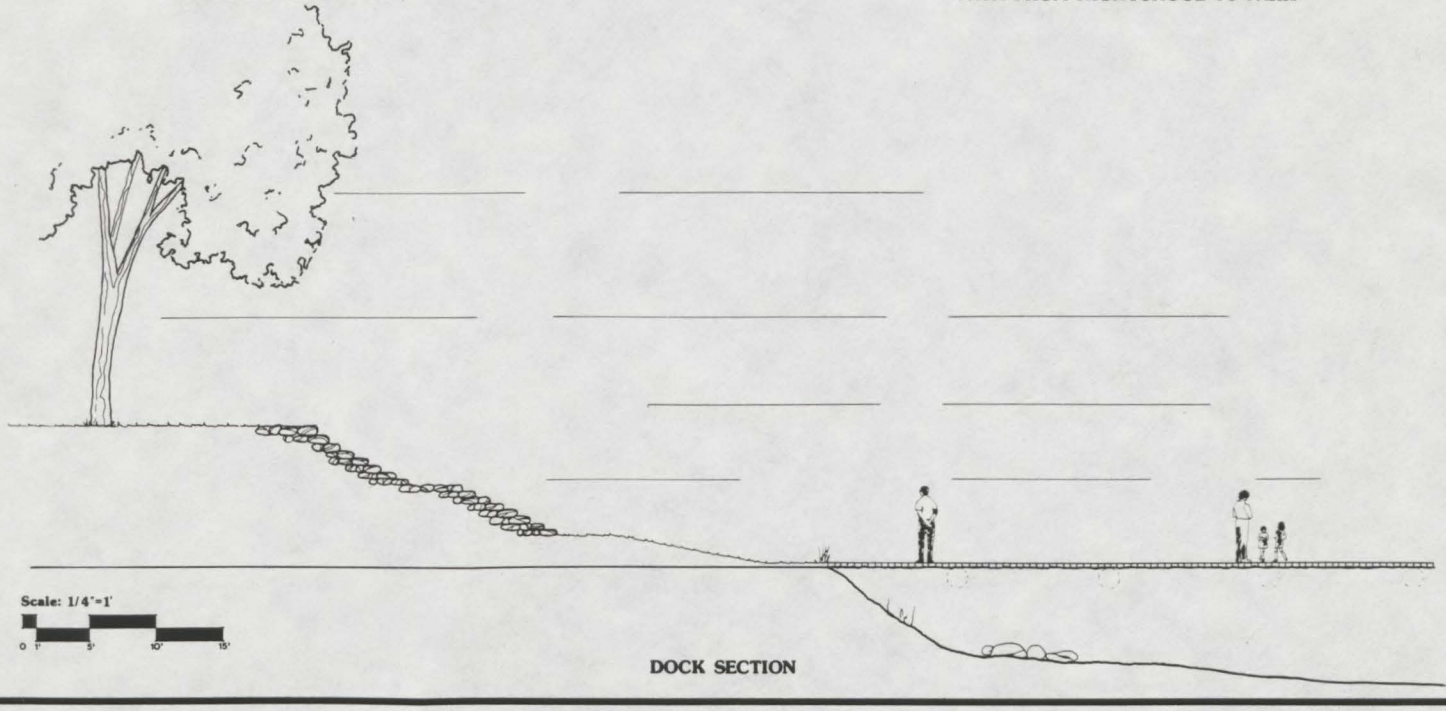


VIEW ACROSS BRIDGE TO KRAFT BUILDING



VEHICULAR ENTRANCE

PATH FROM HIGHSCHOOL TO PARK



DOCK SECTION

SAUK RIVER PARK
MELROSE, MN

ILLUSTRATIONS

JEAN M. GARBARINI
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Tom Ritzer

The following is a brief explanation of the central theme of my design for Sauk River Park, and a summary of the resulting experiences offered by this proposed redesign.

To begin with, the park is redesigned with the future in mind. Any community which knows as well as Melrose the importance of preserving the past, must be equally aware of the importance of looking to the future. Furthermore, the proposed changes to the park will more profoundly affect generations to come than they will the generation which is deciding what those changes will be.

Because this whole business of past, present and future is based on the concept of time, I have used time as a tool, not only for design but also as an implementation tool. For example, while I specify wooded areas in the north end of the park, I do not encourage the initial planting of the entire woods area. Instead, I recommend that the area be planted with only a few appropriate, seed bearing trees, such as Cottonwood, Green Ash, and Boxelder, and that time then be allowed to do the rest, with the help of some occasional selective cutting and pruning.

Time is also about cycles, for example. the organic cycle of seed germination, growth, death, decay, and regeneration. Though nature has been recycling for millennia, man has only learned to do so recently. Yet recycling is an important part of preserving our environment for future generations. Because of this, I am proposing the recycling of pieces of the park. This includes the refurbishment and in some cases relocation of the buildings in and around the park. The playground equipment can also be recycled, through actual disassembly and reconfiguration, into exciting new equipment based on progressive theories of extended play.

The entire fish hatchery area can be codified to become a wetland area with a stream and gently rolling topography. Wetlands have been disappearing at an alarming rate in the recent past. My design offers the opportunity to counter that trend by establishing an environment which is intrinsically beneficial to man and nature.

The future of Sauk River Park will be greatly influenced by its connections to the areas adjacent to it. I have purposely left the boundary between the park and commercial areas somewhat unclear in an attempt to encourage people to go from one area to the other. The Kraft plant is especially important to this idea. The high school and the wetland area because of their proximity to one another, and because of the value of the wetland area as a teaching tool, are obvious places for a connection. The waste water treatment plant because of its importance in drawing future businesses to Melrose should be framed with trees and subtly lit at night to provide a visual feature to be seen from the park.

These design ideas are intended to turn an otherwise dull park into a variety of experiences by reshaping what is already there. These experiences range from bird watching or cross country skiing in a wetland to watching or participating in a softball game to fishing the Sauk River. Each, with its accompanying sights and sounds, contributes to the whole of Sauk River Park.

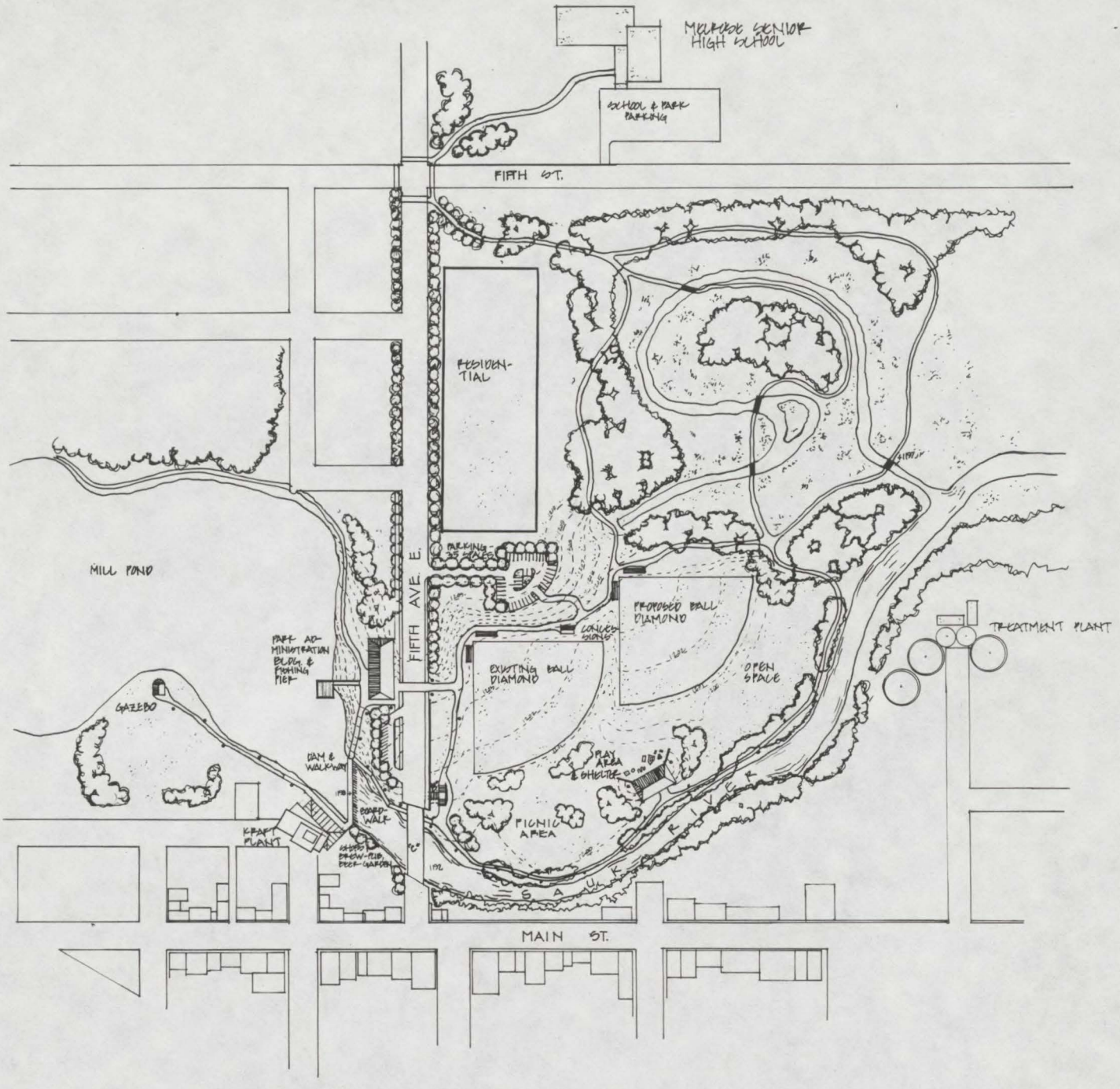
One of the most advantageous aspects of planning for the future is that of phasing. By doing a little at a time, Melrose can ensure eventual completion of the park. I propose the following phasing schedule:

5 Years - Shift parking, east play field, and picnic shelter as shown; phase out camping.

10 Years - Regrade fish hatchery pond, install path system, finish play area, refurbish existing buildings.

15 Years - Plant trees, establish plant communities in wetland area.

20 Years - Build remaining structures.



SITE PLAN

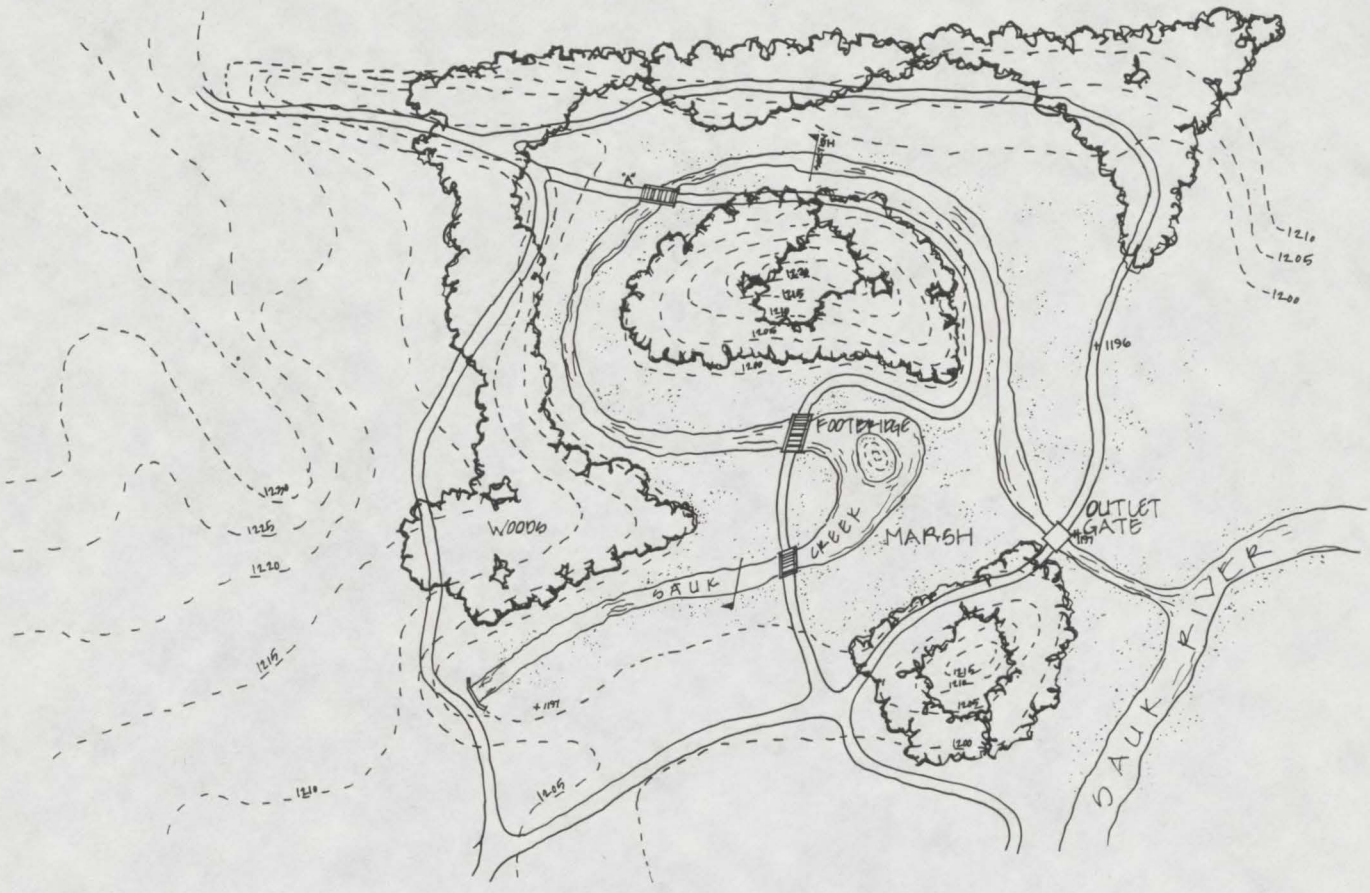
0' 25' 50' 100' 200' 400'

Sauk River Park

THOMAS RITTER

Melrose, MN

11/20/09



PLAN OF WETLAND AREA

0' 15 30 60' 120' 240'

SECTION I

0' 5 10' 20' 40' 80'

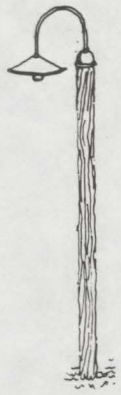
PERSPECTIVE LOOKING EAST FROM PT. "A"

Sauk River Park

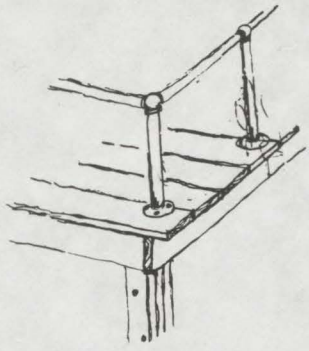
THOMAS RITTER

Melrose, MN

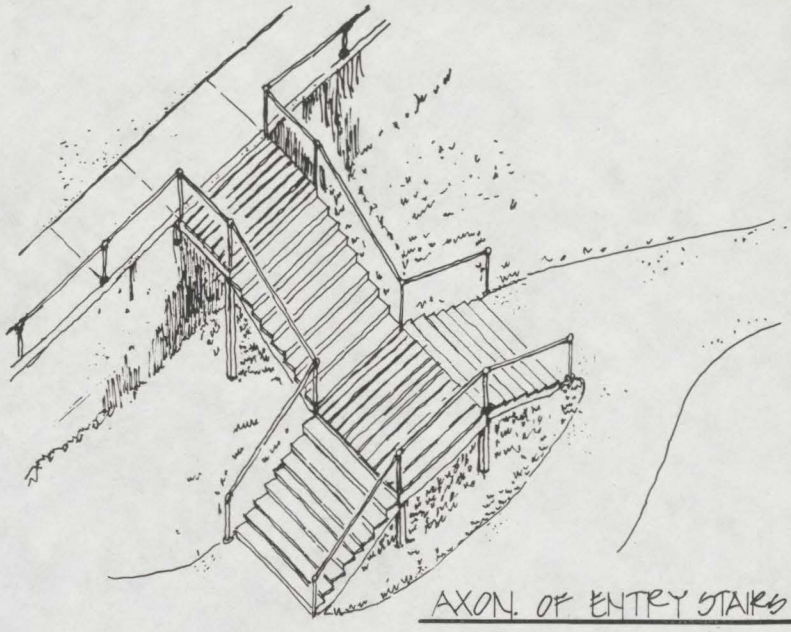
11/20/89



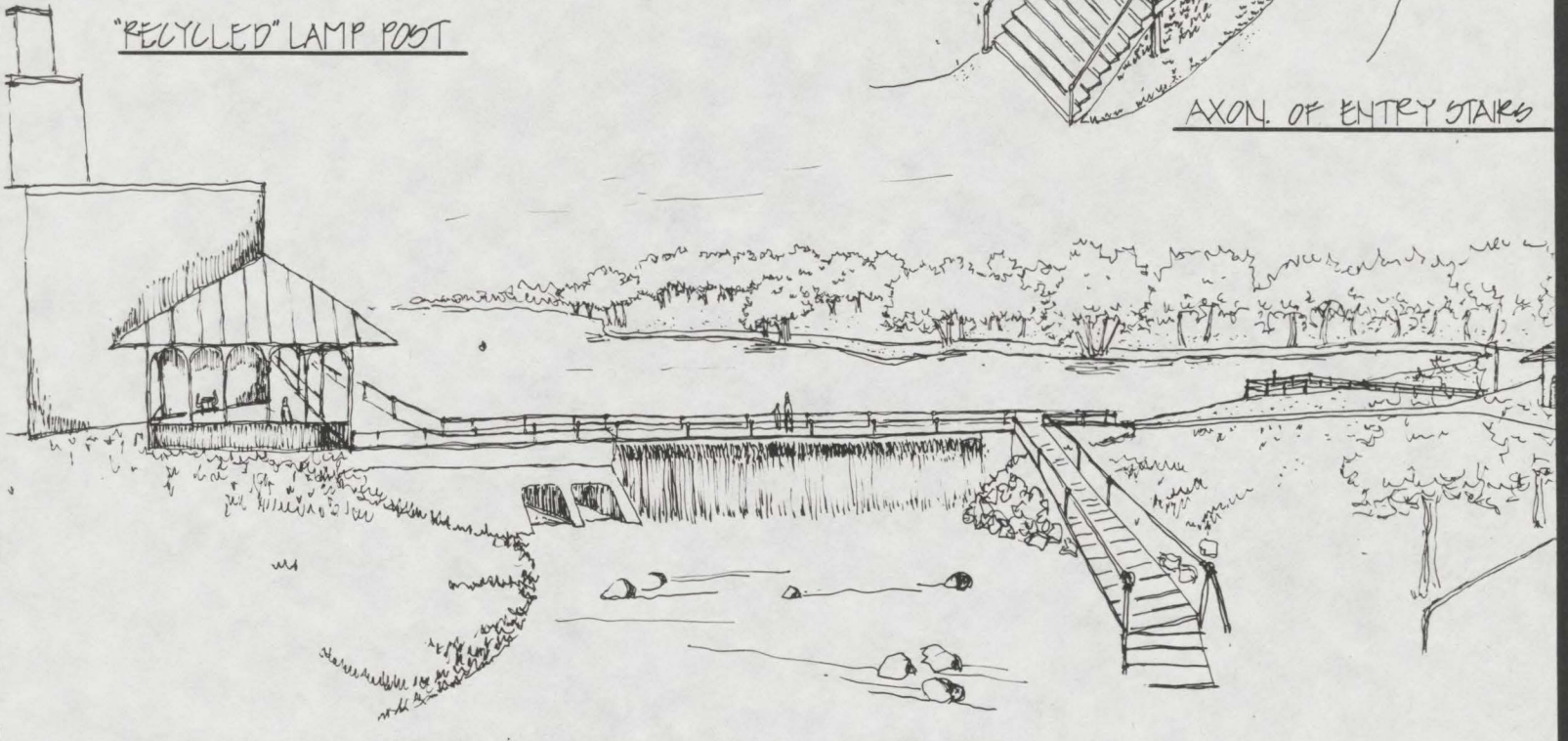
"RECYCLED" LAMP POST



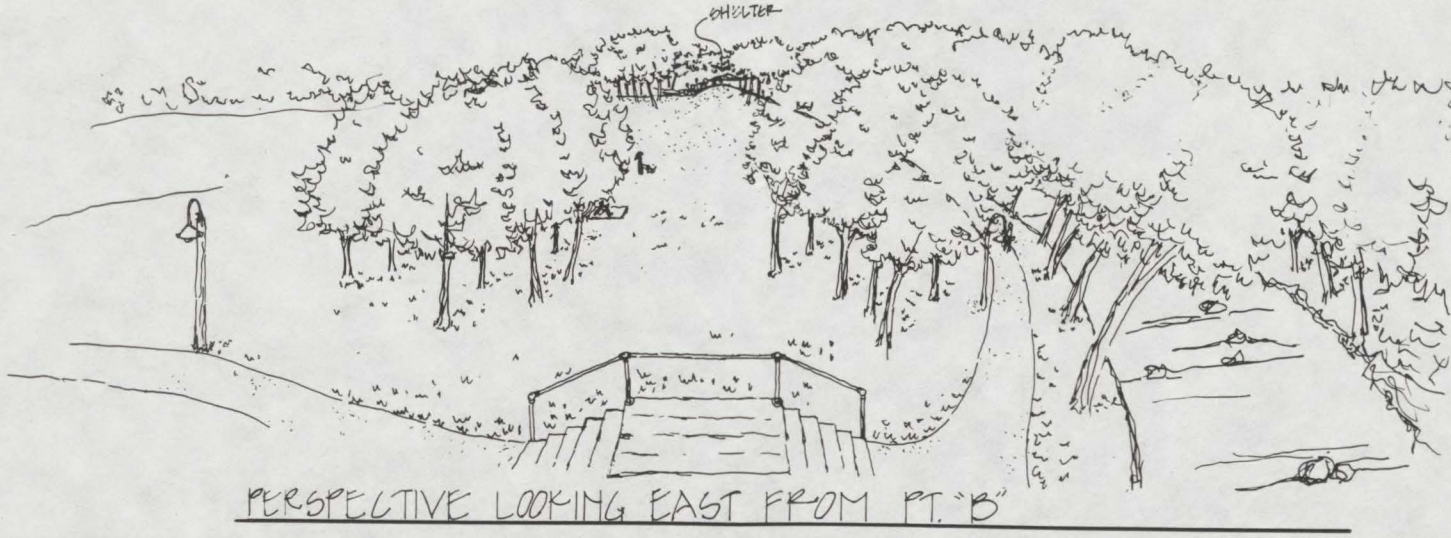
TYPICAL DECK/RAILING



AXON. OF ENTRY STAIRS



PERSPECTIVE LOOKING WEST FROM PT."C"



PERSPECTIVE LOOKING EAST FROM PT."B"

Sauk River Park

THOMAS RITTER

Melrose, MN

11/20/89

Cathy Skalicky

The following plan for Sauk River Park provides the community of Melrose with a multitude of recreational experiences. The park activities are no longer catering primarily to the younger generation, the park now provides older generations with reasons to visit the city's park.

The existing fish rearing pond has been converted into a swimming pond. The swimming pond creates a wealth of new recreational activities for the citizens of Melrose. All age groups will enjoy the swimming beach and the meeting places found on the beach deck. The older generation will enjoy the walking path around the pond, the amphitheater and the seating found on the beach deck.

The major activity areas of the park are found along an activity spine which connects the northern section to the southern section of the park. The pond, beach, deck, volleyball and amphitheater are located in the northern section. The road acts as an edge separating the park and the residential area along 5th Avenue East. The road passes by the parking lots and connects with 5th Avenue East providing access from the high school to the park. The major activity spine continues on a pedestrian level at the parking lots. The placement of the softball fields provides a pathway from the parking/ball fields to the river and picnic pavilion. Ample room is provided by the softball fields for large spectator groups. The backdrop by each softball diamond is also a two-story building which provides room for concessions and score-keeping. Camping and children's play equipment is located off the main activity spine. This provides a more private camping experience and a "safer" playground.

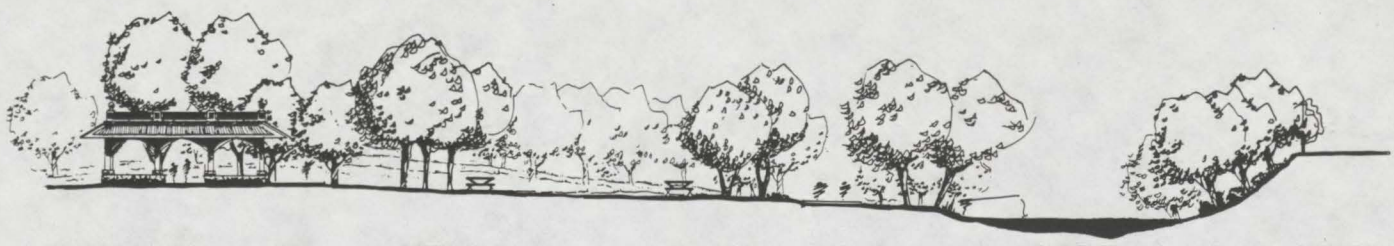
This plan also identifies two major pedestrian entrances into the park. One is located by the picturesque "falls" and the other is from a proposed park building located on Main Street. The entrance by the "falls" allows visitors to view the beauty of the mill pond area before entering the rest of the park. The proposed main street entrance would be located between 5th Avenue East and 6th Avenue East. An entrance here will help connect the activities/businesses of Main Street with the park.

Phase 1 - Earthwork for swimming pond/beach, pedestrian paths, 5th Avenue entrance.

Phase 2 - Move softball diamonds, earthwork for amphitheater and playground. Begin tree planting.

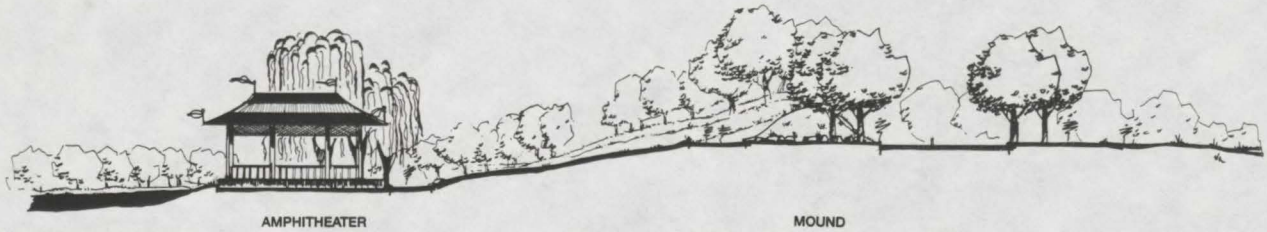
Phase 3 - Road Construction, move campsites and playground, construct amphitheater and picnic pavilion. Continue planting.

Phase 4 - Construct Main Street entrance with foot bridge.



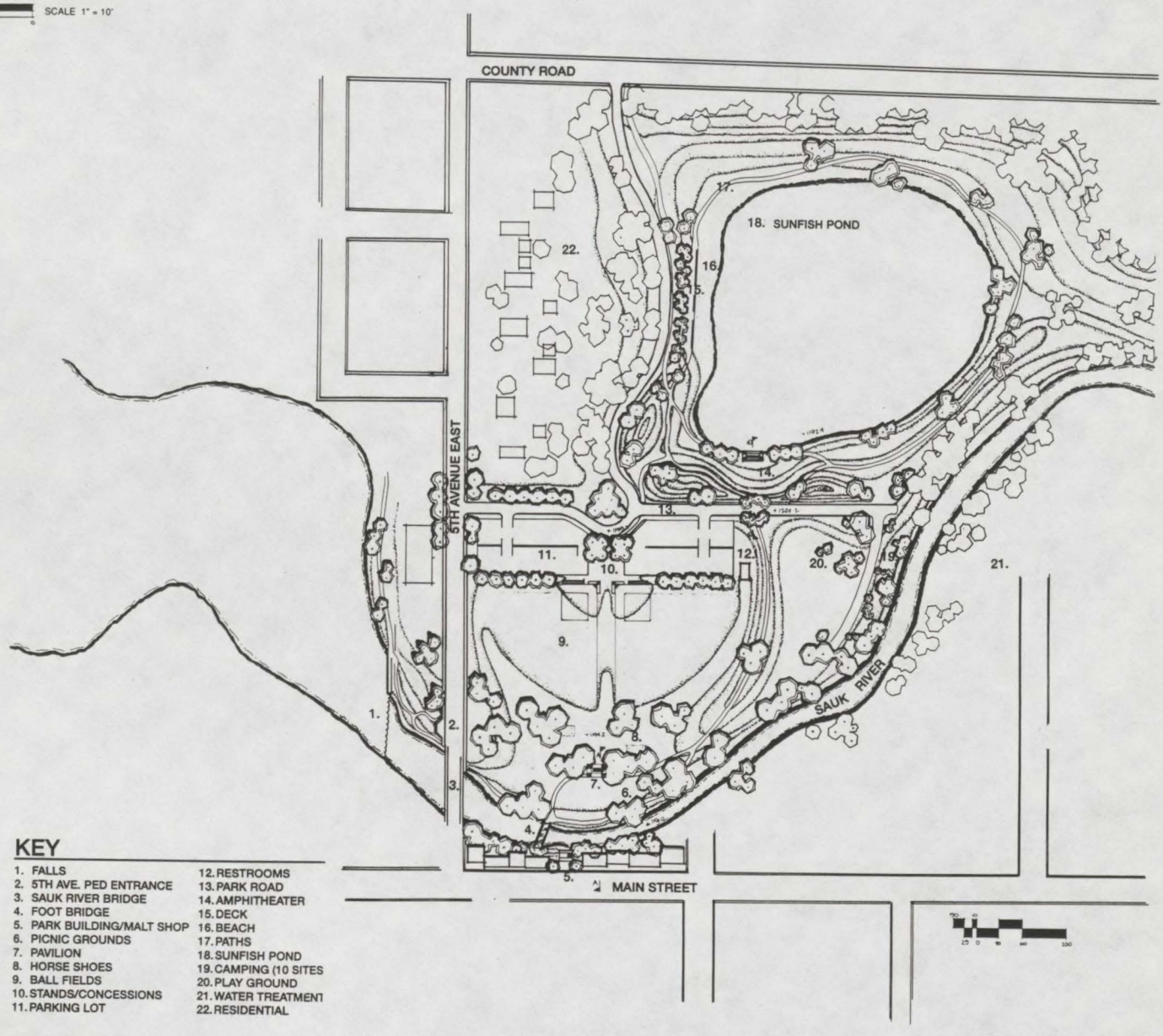
SECTION AA PAVILION PATH PICNIC GROUNDS POPLAR TREES PATH SAUK RIVER MAIN STREET

SCALE 1" = 10'



SECTION BB SUNFISH POND AMPHITHEATER WILLOW TREES HILL PATH MOUND CRAB APPLE TREES ROAD

SCALE 1" = 10'



KEY

1. FALLS
2. 5TH AVE. PED ENTRANCE
3. SAUK RIVER BRIDGE
4. FOOT BRIDGE
5. PARK BUILDING/MALT SHOP
6. PICNIC GROUNDS
7. PAVILION
8. HORSE SHOES
9. BALL FIELDS
10. STANDS/CONCESSIONS
11. PARKING LOT
12. RESTROOMS
13. PARK ROAD
14. AMPHITHEATER
15. DECK
16. BEACH
17. PATHS
18. SUNFISH POND
19. CAMPING (10 SITES
20. PLAY GROUND
21. WATER TREATMENT
22. RESIDENTIAL

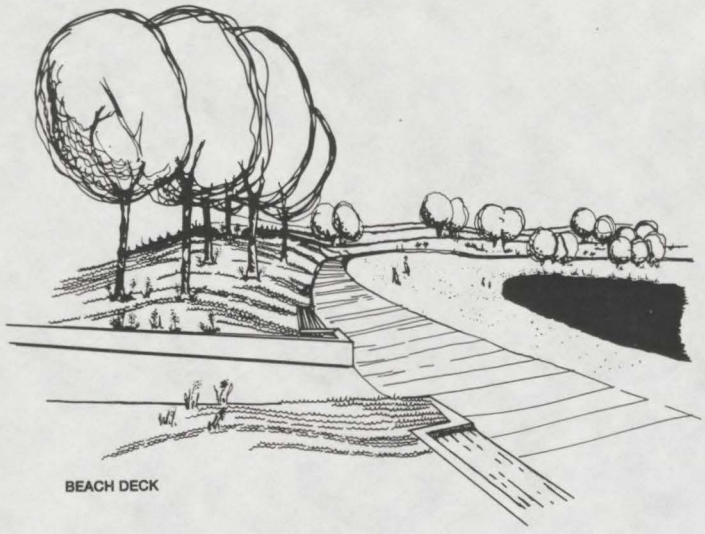
RECREATION PLANNING & DESIGN
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE
AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

MASTER PLAN

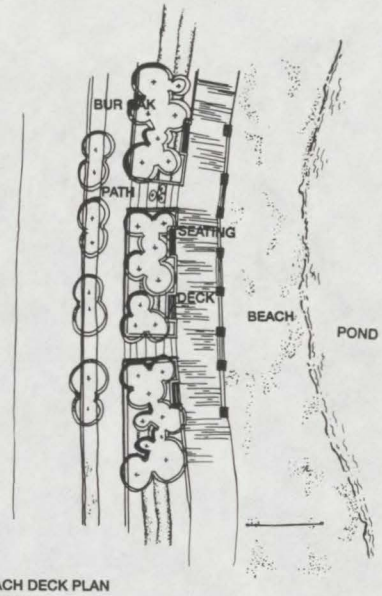
SAUK RIVER PARK
MELROSE, MINNESOTA

DESIGNED BY:
CATHY SKALICKY
NOVEMBER 20, 1989

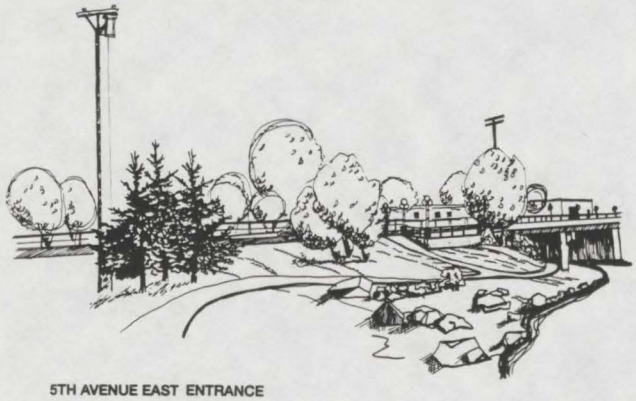
1" = 100'



BEACH DECK

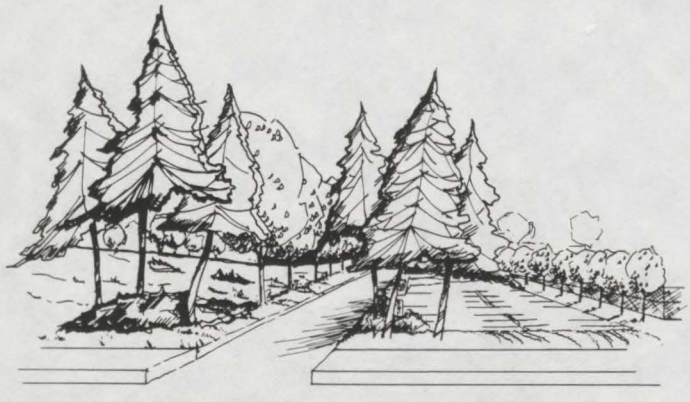


BEACH DECK PLAN
1" = 20'



5TH AVENUE EAST ENTRANCE

PATHWAYS



5TH AVENUE EAST ROAD

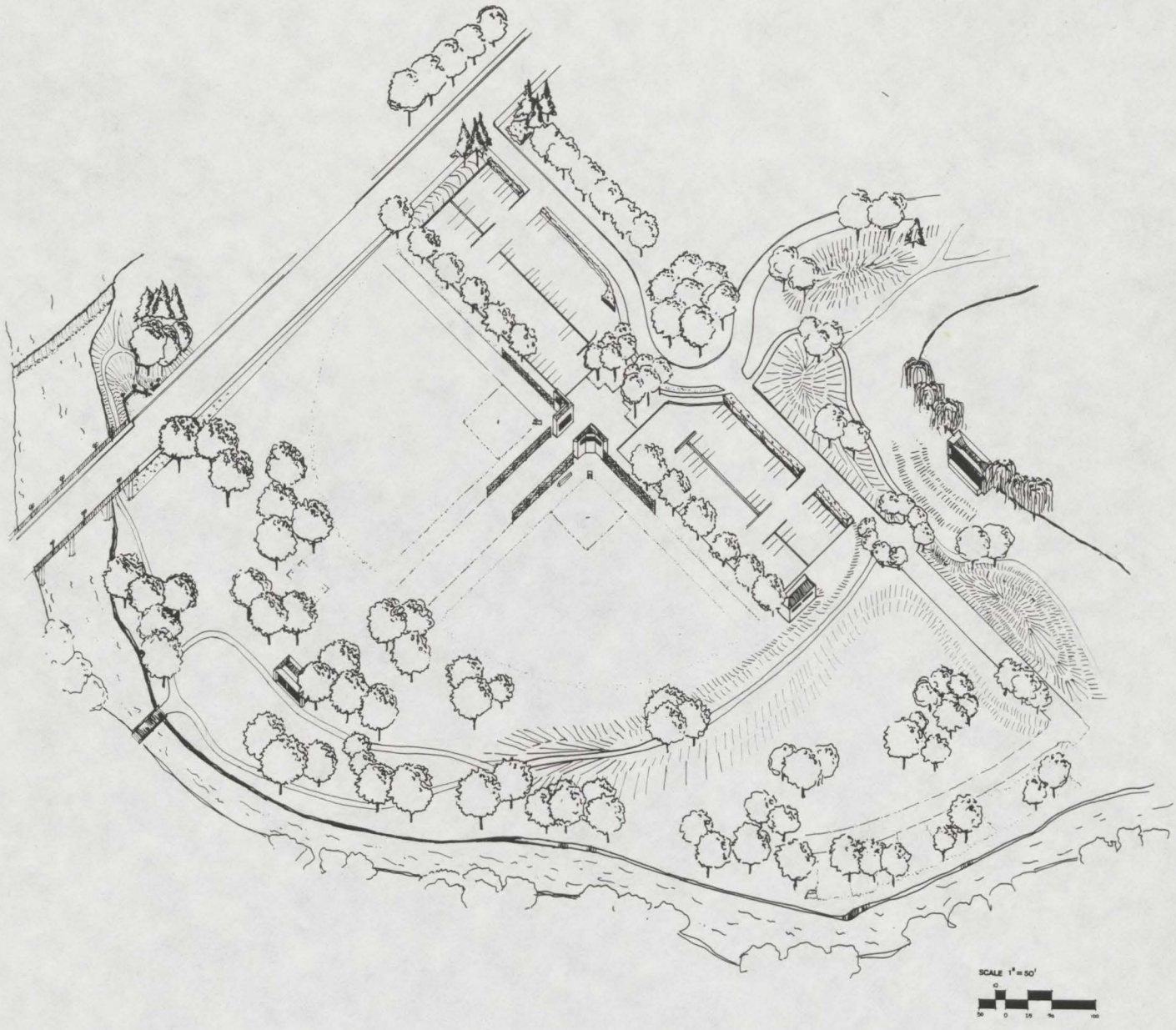
PARK BUILDING/MALT SHOP

RECREATION PLANNING & DESIGN
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE
AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

IMAGE SKETCHES

SAUK RIVER PARK
MELROSE, MINNESOTA

DESIGNED BY:
CATHY SKALICKY
NOVEMBER 20, 1989



RECREATION PLANNING & DESIGN
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE
AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

IMAGE SKETCHES

SAUK RIVER PARK
MELROSE, MINNESOTA

DESIGNED BY:
CATHY SKALICKY
NOVEMBER 20, 1989

Jeff Timm

This scheme uses two elements for the underlying organization of the park, the Sauk River and the softball diamonds. The Sauk River holds a particular importance to the community it is perhaps the strongest amenity in the park, being used for fishing, strolling and picnicking on the river's edge. These experiences are therefore preserved and enhanced in this design. Softball also holds a great deal of value to the community not only for the players but also for the people who come to watch the games. To increase the experience the fields are reorientated to concentrate activity in a central area near home plates, earth mounds flank the sides of the fields forming natural bleachers. This better contains the fields to create a stadium like effect.

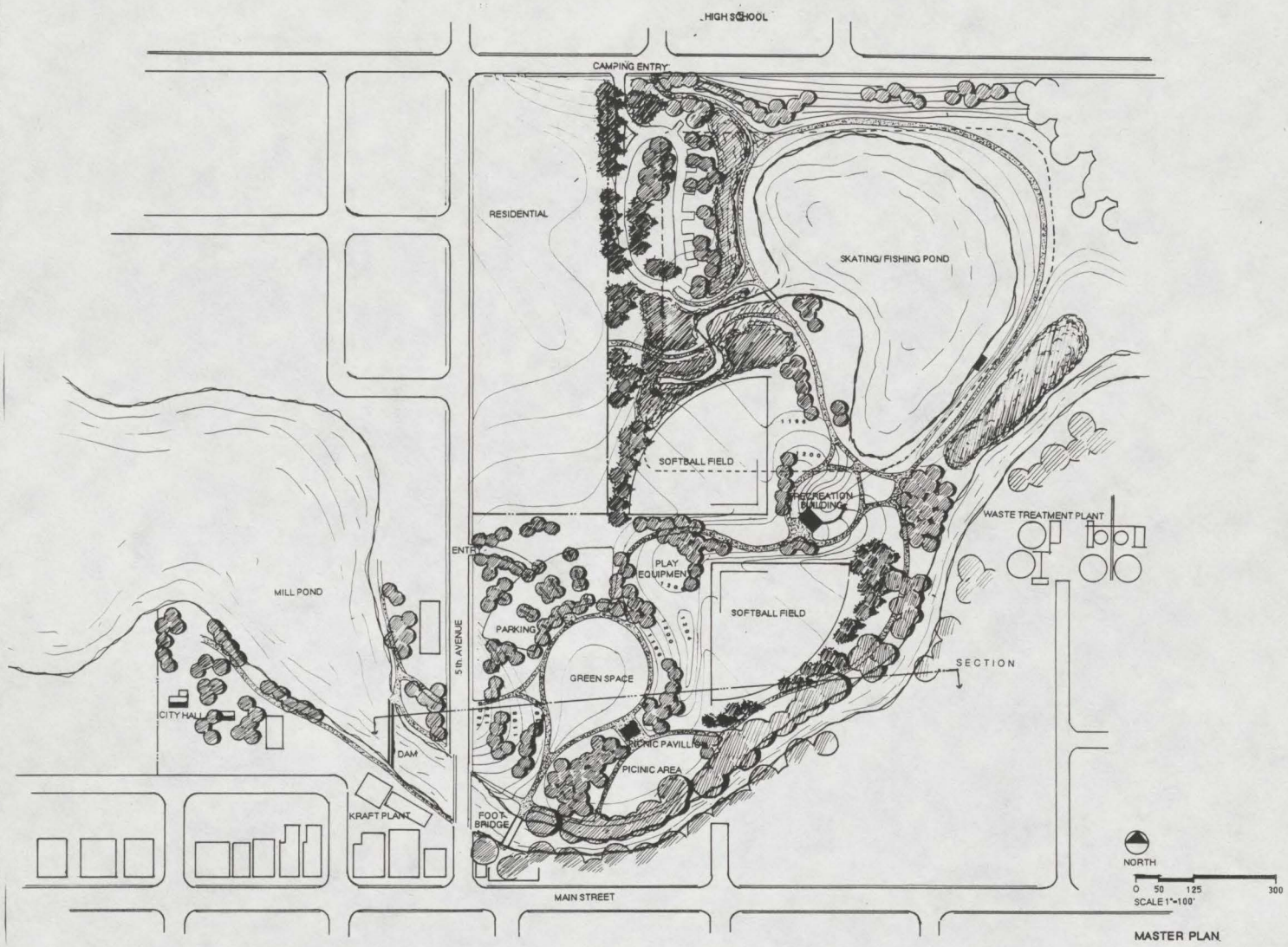
The softball area acts as a hub for linking surrounding activities. It connects to the fish rearing pond which is transformed into a fishing and skating pond surrounded by a trail system. It connects to a play area so the children may be near the parents if they are watching the games. A pavilion in the center of this hub serves multiple uses becoming a concession stand, restrooms, a warming shack for skating and cross country skiing, and an information area for the park. In addition, the lower forecourt can be used as performance area for music or skits it is enclosed on one side again by earth, forming an area for the audience to sit and the other by a small retaining wall acting as a backdrop.

The central green space connects the softball area to the river. It narrows to a funnel aligning a foot bridge that continues a path system to the old Kraft plant and onward to city hall. The picnic pavilion is changed to relate more to the architecture of downtown, it also forms a link to the river. A corridor along the river is enhanced making an area for passive recreation, the paths follow all along the river connecting the path system around the skating pond. Camping is moved to the north end of the skating pond. By doing this the river frontage is usable by everyone and the campers can have their own area and still maintain the amenity of water. A second road is developed entering by the high school, this would allow better control of the campers and eliminate conflicting interests with park users.

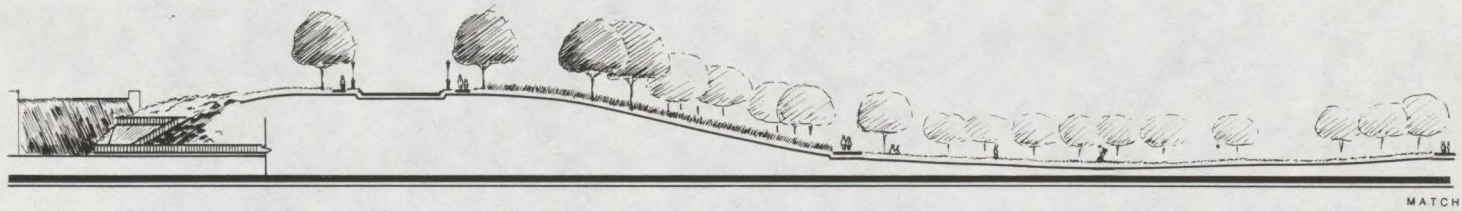
Cost of the earth work is reduced by moving the perimiters of the fish rearing pond to create the mounds along the ball diamonds and using the earth that is dug our from the skating pond for fill, however additional soil would have to be brought in from surrounding quarries. A tree planting effort might be accomplished if the city were to acquire use of a tree space and transplant trees from public land or have local people with forested land donate trees.

Phasing of the project might be as follows:

Phase 1 - Reorientate softball diamonds and surrounding grading. Rough grade skating pond area.
Phase 2 - Construct pavilion. Final grade skating pond. Begin tree planting.
Phase 3 - Grade green space and continue planting. Construct parking.
Phase 4 - Build picnic pavilion. Construct foot bridges. Pave paths. Complete planting.

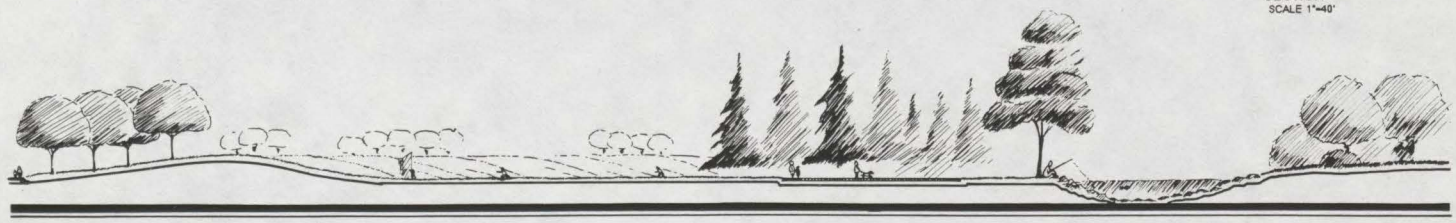


MASTER PLAN



MATCH LINE

SECTION
SCALE 1"=40'



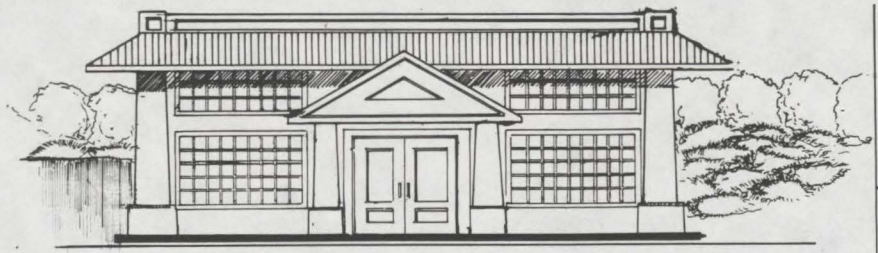
MATCH LINE

SECTION

UNIVERSITY OF MN
SHEET 1 OF 2
MASTER PLAN

SAUK RIVER PARK
MELROSE, MINNESOTA

JEFF TIMM
FALL 1989
LA 5105



RECREATION CENTER
ELEVATION
SCALE 1"=4'

SKATING/ FISHING POND

SOFTBALL FIELD

RECREATION BUILDING

ENTRY

PLAY EQUIPMENT

PARKING

SOFTBALL FIELD

GREEN SPACE

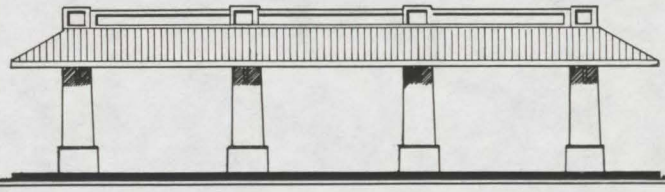
ENTRY

PICNIC PAVILLION

SCALE 1"=40'

PICNIC AREA

FOOT BRIDGE



PICNIC PAVILLION
ELEVATION
SCALE 1"=4'

PICNIC PAVILION PERSPECTIVE

UNIVERSITY OF MN
SHEET 2 OF 2
DETAIL PLAN

SAUK RIVER PARK
MELROSE, MINNESOTA

JEFF TIMM
FALL 1999
LA 5105

Chuck Stifter

The city of Melrose has many elements that give it identity. I believe the most important of these is the Sauk River. Years ago the Sauk River became an area of settlement for Melrose because of its resources. In this design of the park I express the bounty of the river through a sequence of experiences.

As a general design element of the park I feel it it important to create some spatial order. This helps give definition and control to the activities thus centering the experience and making it more enjoyable.

Making the connection between spaces is what makes the park a whole place. By creating a system of paths that make these connections, the visitor can create his own sequence of experiences everytime he visits.

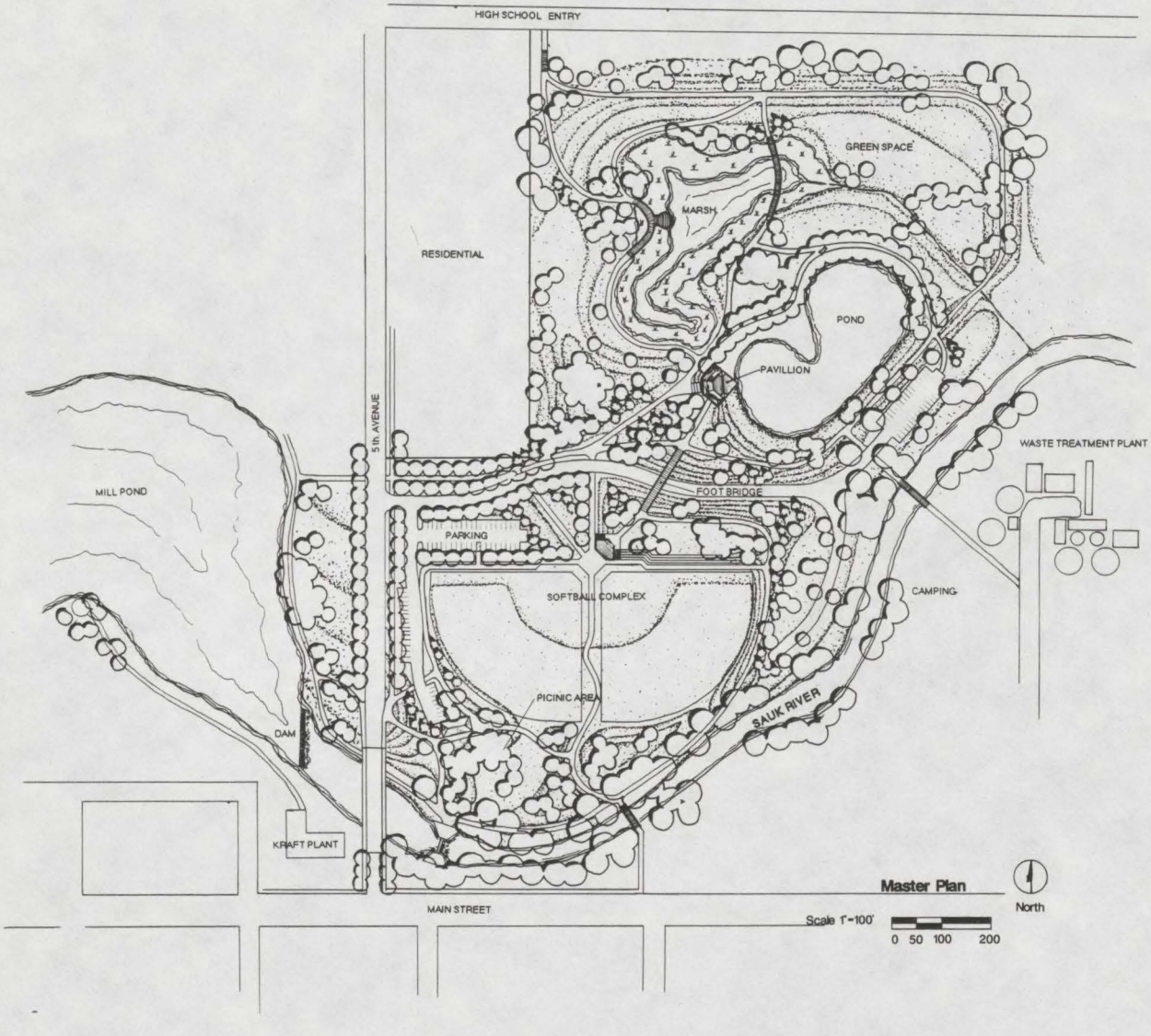
Another important issue was to make the connections to the surrounding areas stronger. Such as the downtown, high school and surrounding residential area. The importance of this is to bring people into the park on an everyday basis, thus making it a highly active and used park.

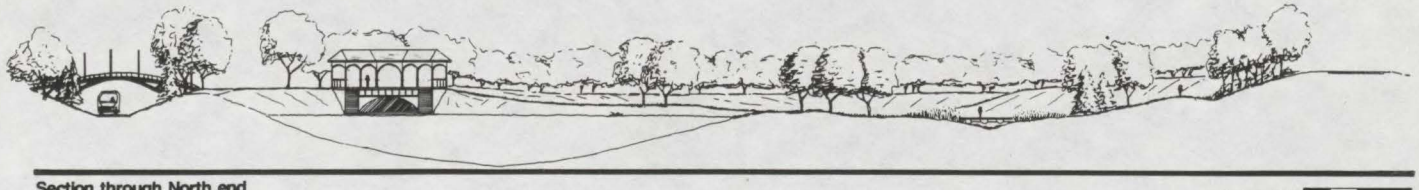
Two important elements of my design are the softball complex and the swimming area. The softball complex is designed so attention is focused completely on the game, thus intensifying the game for both player and viewer.

The swimming/skating area is designed as a complex of many activities. A pavilion is suggested to serve as an amphitheater, bath house, and and warming house. It is enveloped by earth to create an outdoor theater. At its feet would be the water feature used for skating, swimming and other water sports.

<u>Phasing Schedule:</u>

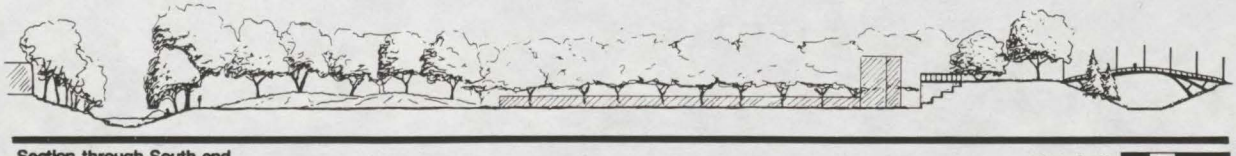
1.) Earth work at north end (create swimming pond). Pavilion, some plants.
2.) Earth work at south end. Roads and parking lots. Some plants.
3.) Ballfields. Pathways. Some plants.
4.) Picnic shelter; Concession stand/restrooms. Some plants.
5.) Bridges and structural elements that make connections to surrounding areas.





Section through North end

Scale 1"=40'
0 20 40 80



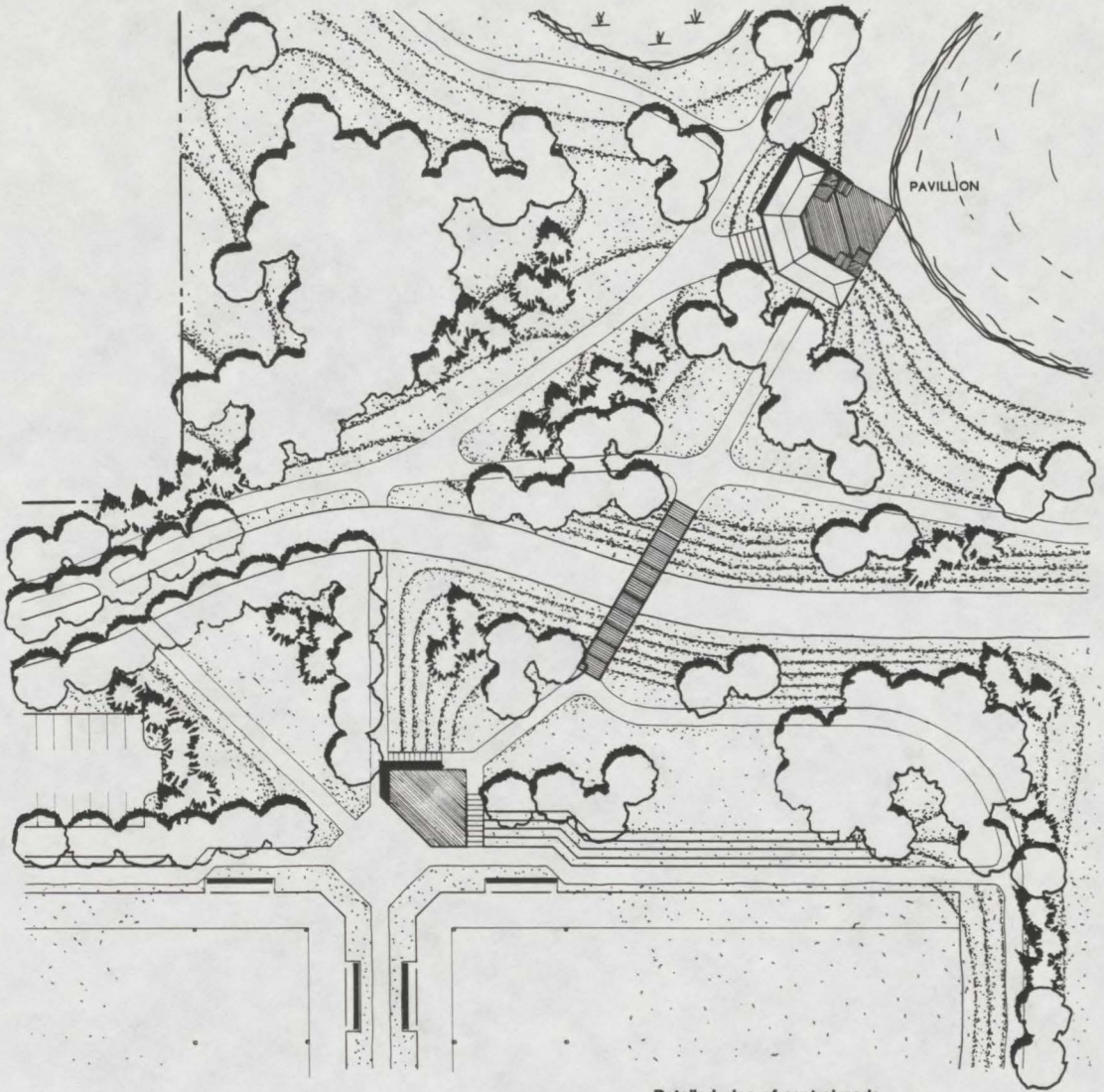
Section through South end

Scale 1"=40'
0 20 40 80

Melrose MN

SAUK RIVER PARK

Chuck Stifter

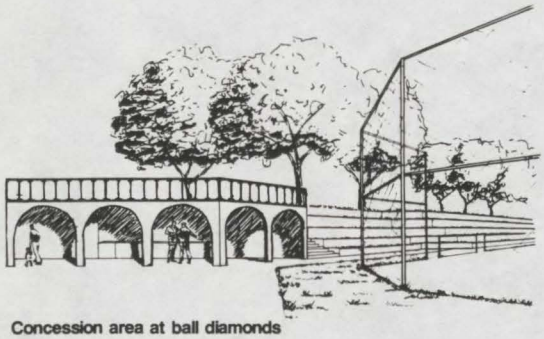


Detailed plan of central node

Scale 1"=30'

0 15 30 60

North



Concession area at ball diamonds

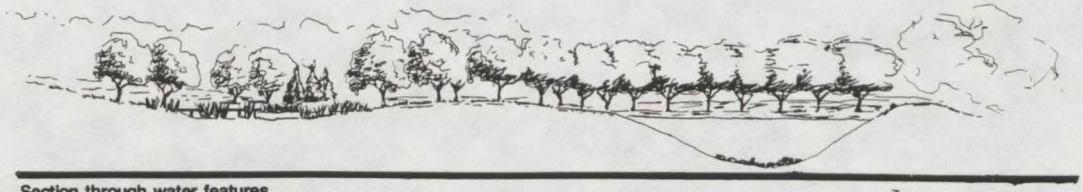
Pavilion elevation

Melrose, MN

SAUK RIVER PARK

Chuck Stifter

Picnic area overlooking ball diamonds



Section through water features

Scale 1"=40'

0 20 40 80

Melrose, MN

SAUK RIVER PARK

Chuck Stifter

Kong Mei

People love to see water, to touch water, even to immerse themselves into water. Water in small lakes and rivers is simple, gentle and beautiful. Yet water is also very lively, vigorous, it ripples under wind and reflects under light.

Melrose is a beautiful small town with mill pond and Sauk River on its north side. Sauk River Park is located on the north side of the stream.

In my design water becomes the major theme. Water features are used to create different spaces with various qualities. According to the design, the park is divided into three parts; a southern part, a northern part and a western part. The southern part and the northern part are separated by the entrance road. The western part is on the west side of 5th Avenue.

Southern Part:
Coming into the park from 5th Avenue, people can get to the two softball fields. A shelter will be provided so that people can sit in it to watch games. Around the ballfields a gentle slope will be made. A children's playground will be set on the west side of the ballfields. Getting close to the river people will have a fishing area - underneath the bridge. Along Sauk River a pedestrian path will be built. People walk on the path enjoying the dense canopy which is there naturally. At the connection between Sauk River and the fish-rearing Pond, a pergola will be built.

Northern Part:
Coming from the 5th Avenue entrance and going straight along the drive, people will find a symbolic structure at the end of the drive. The purpose of this structure is to emphasize the theme of the park meaning, so a section of Sauk River will be rebuilt in small scale by using gravel on a grass slope. The essential part in the park is the restoration of the existing fish-rearing pond with an open-air theater. It will be connected with Sauk River to provide fresh water. The open-air theater is on the south edge of the pond and is designed as a large gathering space. The stage and seating area will be separated by a piece of water and foot bridges are designed to provide the link between the two areas. At the back of the theater there is a large piece of grassland. The space is wide open with a steady slope.

On the north side of the pond, a picnic area and campsites are located on both sides of a gathering space. Steps and ramps are provided to lead toward a pavilion. A picnic shelter is placed close to the parking lot. Another parking area will be provided near the camping sites. On the west side of the drive way, a small man-made hill will be created. Up the hill, people can look at both the mill pond and the fish-rearing pond.

Western Part:
A new foot bridge will be built on Sauk River. Crossing the bridge people get into the park and see the water-fall feature. A deck will be on top of the water-fall. As mentioned above, water is a big issue in the design. Careful considerations are made to add variety to the park.

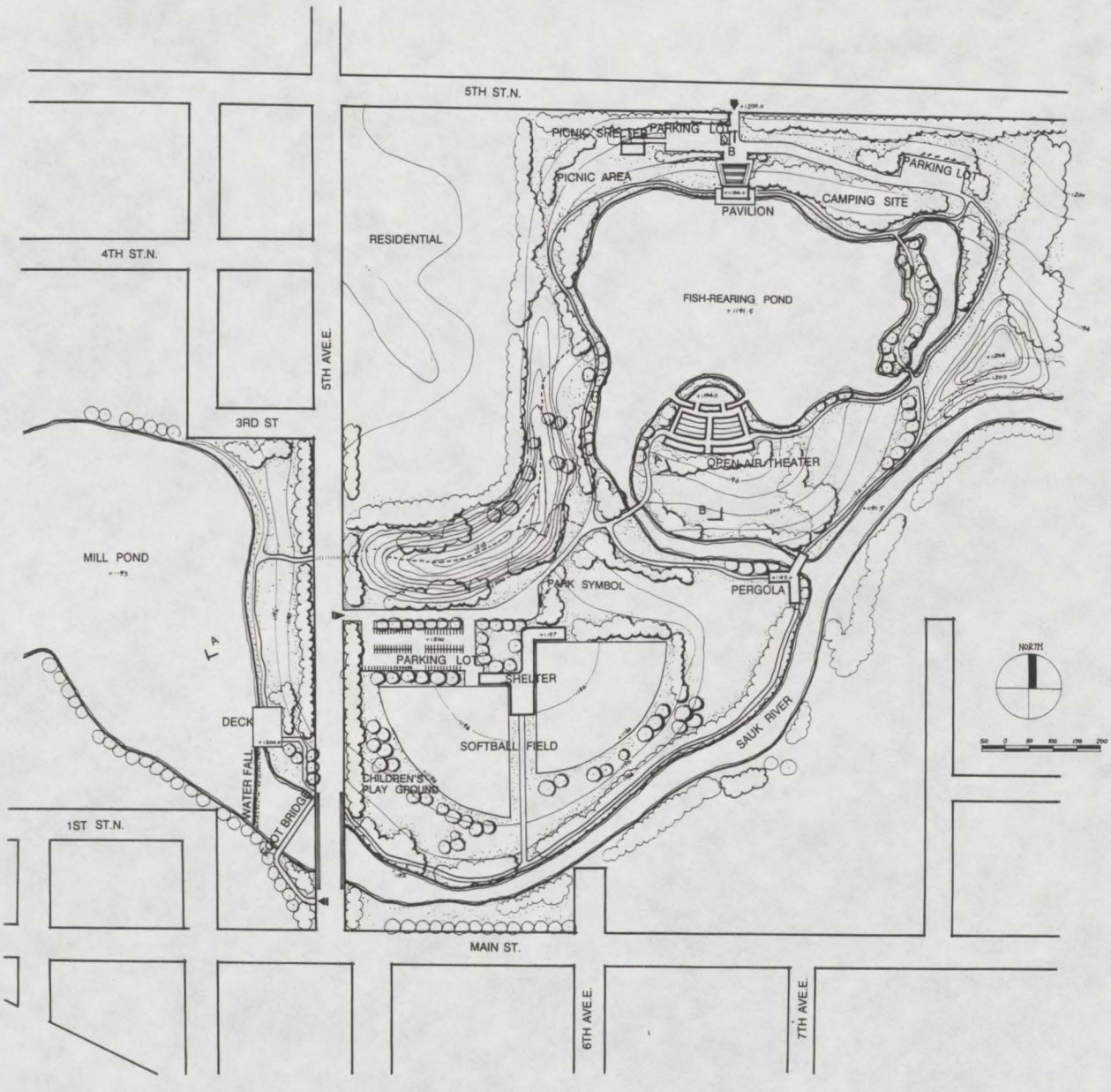
Phasing Suggestions:

Phase 1 - Move softball fields. Shelter near ball fields. Path along Sauk River. Camp sites. Children's playground.

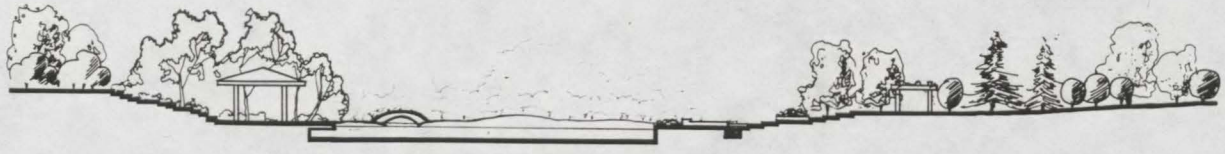
Phase 2 - Parking lots, foot bridge on Sauk River, basketball, picnic area.

Phase 3 - Fish-rearing pond, island, deck on top of waterfall.

Phase 4 - Theater, man-made hill, pergola, bridges between island and pond edge.



SECTION A-A SCALE 1"=40'

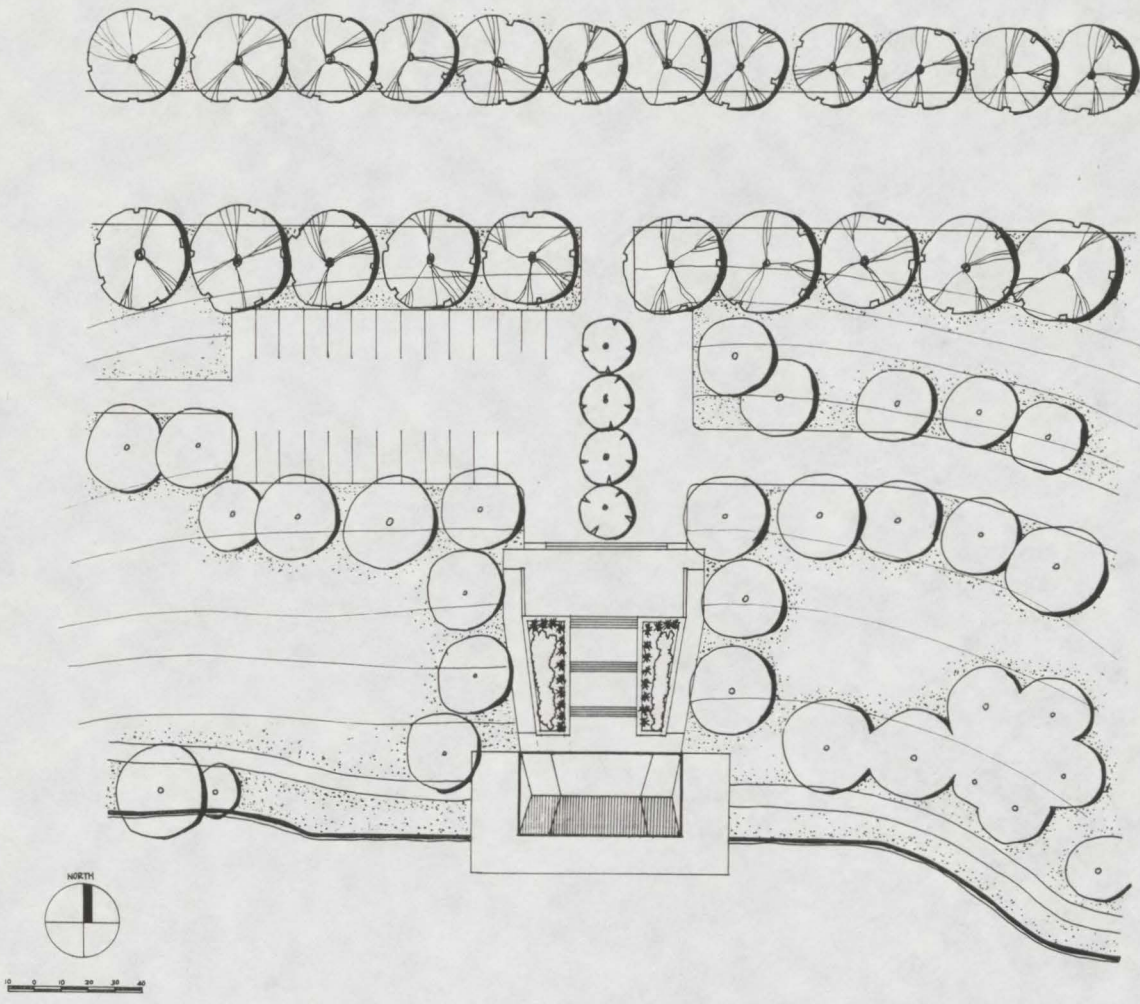


SECTION B-B SCALE 1"=40'

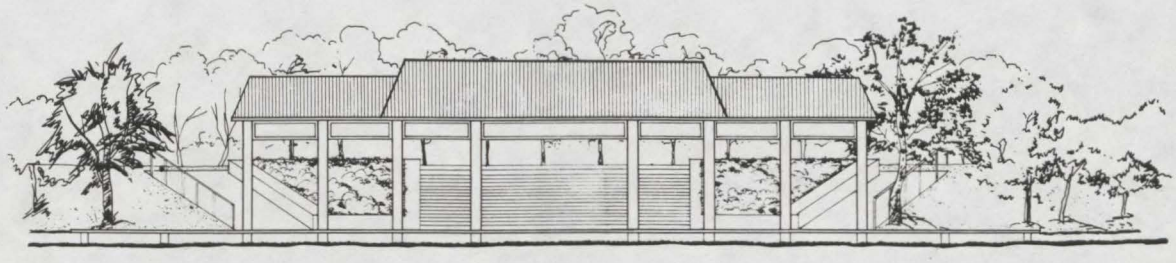
LA 5105 RECREATION PLANNING AND DESIGN
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

MASTER PLAN AND SECTIONS
SAUK RIVER PARK
MELROSE MINNESOTA

KONG MEI
FALL 1989



PAVILION AND GATHERING OPEN SPACE



PAVILION SECTION SCALE 1"=50'

LA 5105 RECREATION PLANNING AND DESIGN
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

DETAILS
SAUK RIVER PARK
MELROSE MINNESOTA

KONG MEI
FALL 1989

Tom Kerby

Sauk River Park, as it is now, lacks a discernable identity. It is the purpose of this design to give definition to the park and respond to expressed needs and wants of the people of Melrose. Identity of the park utilizes landform, structures, and plant materials to clearly define edges of spaces. The grading of the park results in a more positive character for the park and it becomes the foundation for the park and its related uses (softball, picnicking, etc.).

The park is organized along a series of experiences. These experiences are marked periodically through goals of achievements that occur within the park. The major goal or achievement of the park is the proposed grading of a knoll which anchors the park and acts as an overlook to defined areas of the park. The defined areas it looks onto are the theater-lake area, the natural wetland space, and the more active northern space, including the ball fields and play areas.

The formation of the knoll also acts as a transition through the two zones - the ball fields and theater-lake areas. In reaching the knoll through the northern portion with the ball fields one experiences sweeping and undulating pathways atop mounds. The mounds create edges for sitting of ball games and areas for picnicking. The reorganization of this portion of the park economizes the river's edge for a more public access. Furthermore, the concession/restroom facility is in close proximity to ball fields, parking, and children's play area within this organization. The pathway begins to climb and spiral to the top of the knoll. This path functions for walking, biking, and possible cross country skiing. The path culminates at the top then spins one towards the theater-lake space. It is envisioned as a romantic place for couples to stroll and gaze onto the reflection upon the lake. Also, it can be utilized for high school use and, in addition, the theater doubles for a warming house for winter time skating. There is an associated secondary picnic space, in vicinity to the camping, and acts as a more private area than the primary picnic area by the ball fields. Finally, a naturalistic area is encountered in the form of a wetland marsh. Its purpose is in conjunction with possible fishing and education of ecological factors represented by the marsh as the "filter of nature". Thus, the strong organization allows for easy path finding and results in a smooth progression through the sequence of spaces and experiences.

Phasing, in a general sense, should occur with grading being the number one concern. The landform is the architecture upon which proceeding elements are built.

Phase 1 - 5 year plan to implement major portion of park to express the concept.
Proposal is to develop the northern half of the park. This mainly entails the grading around ball fields and mounding in picnic area. New parking lot would also be developed with paths set in. Vegetation and picnic pavilion added in response to available money.

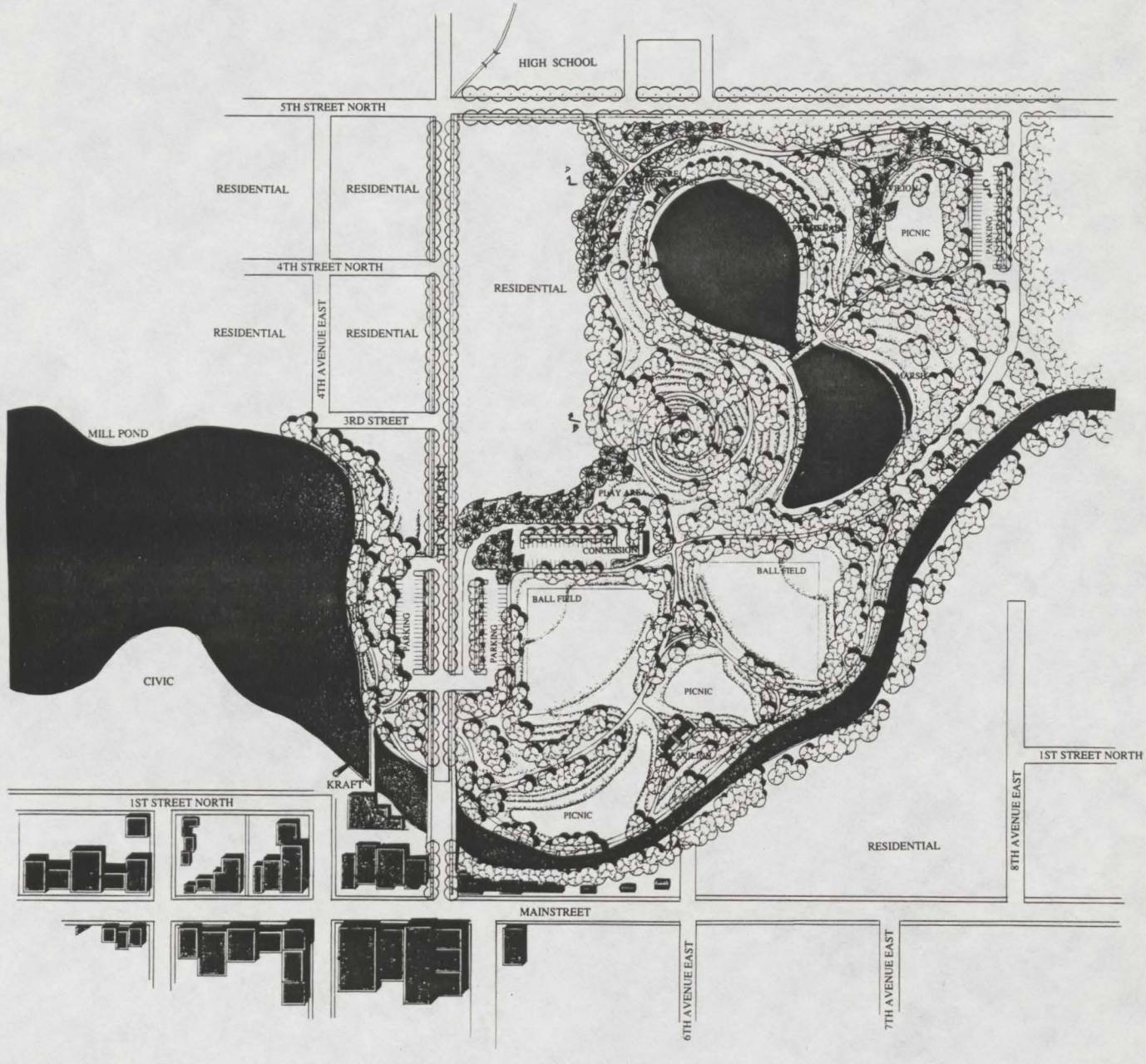
Phase 2 - Would begin the lake - marsh implementation with temporary paths set and camping drive constructed. Further, vegetation planted.

Phase 3 - Concludes grading of knoll in 20 year plan and begin heavy planting plan in conjunction of theater - warming house construction.

Phase 4 - Entails continuation of planting with replacement of temporary paths. Also, as needed, subsidiary picnic shelters added.

SECTION - A PRIMARY PICNIC AREA

SCALE - 1" = 20'



SAUK RIVER PARK

MELROSE, MINNESOTA

MASTER PLAN

SCALE - 1" = 100'

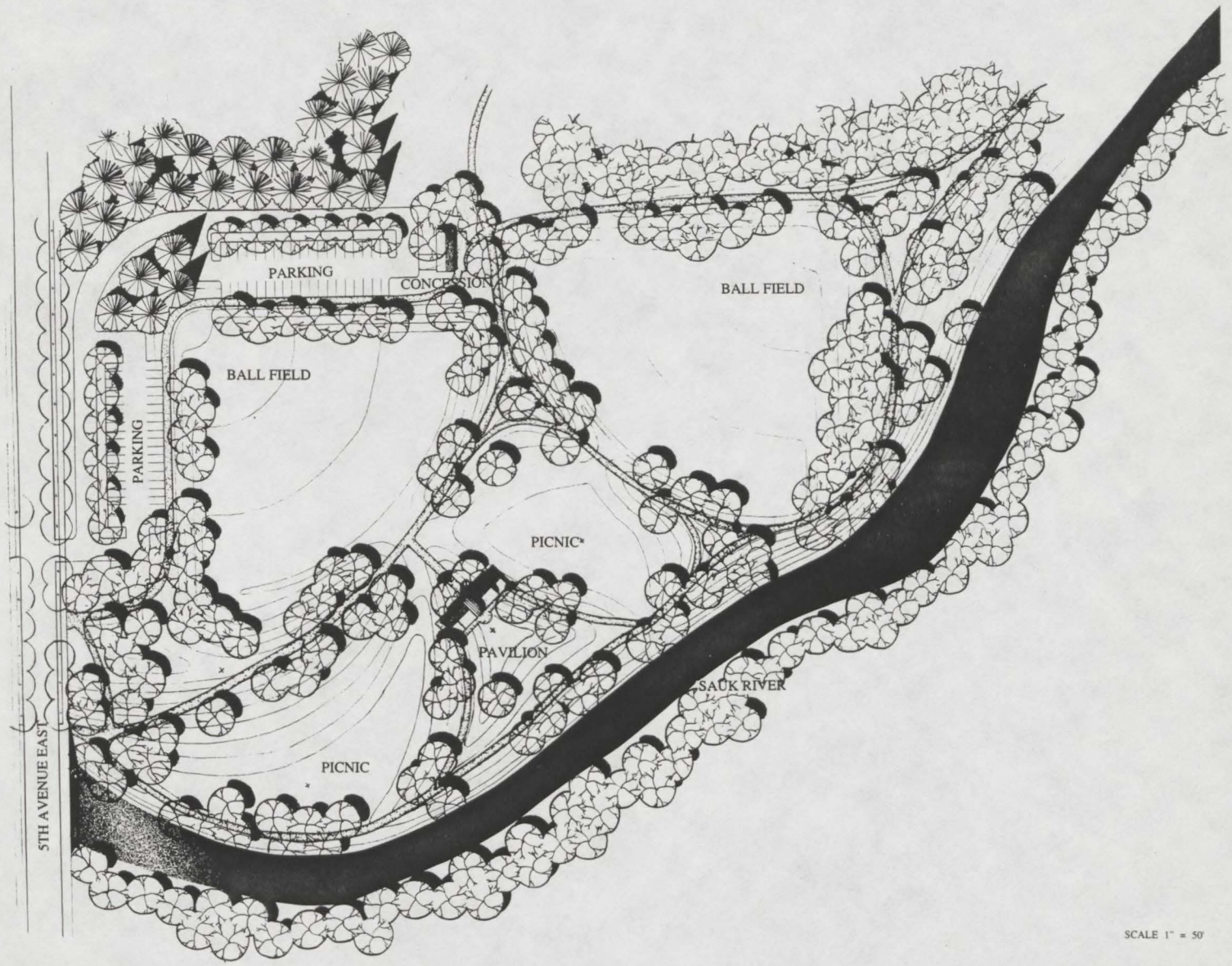
THOMAS J. KERBY

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM
PARK DESIGN 5105

NOVEMBER 20,1989

SECTION - D THEATER TO LAKE

SCALE 1" = 20'



SCALE 1" = 50'

SAUK RIVER PARK

MELROSE, MINNESOTA

DETAIL PLAN - SECTION

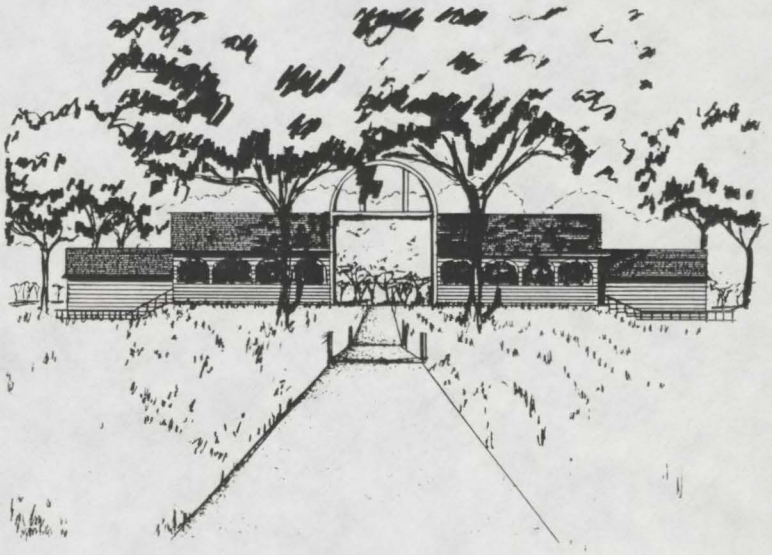
THOMAS J. KERBY

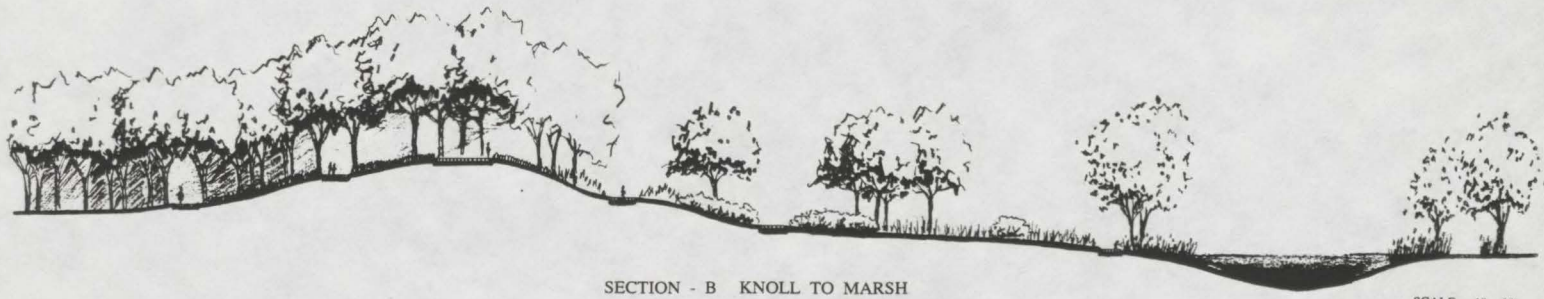
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM
PARK DESIGN 5105

NOVEMBER 20,1989

PERSPECTIVE - OF MARSH WALK ON DOCK.

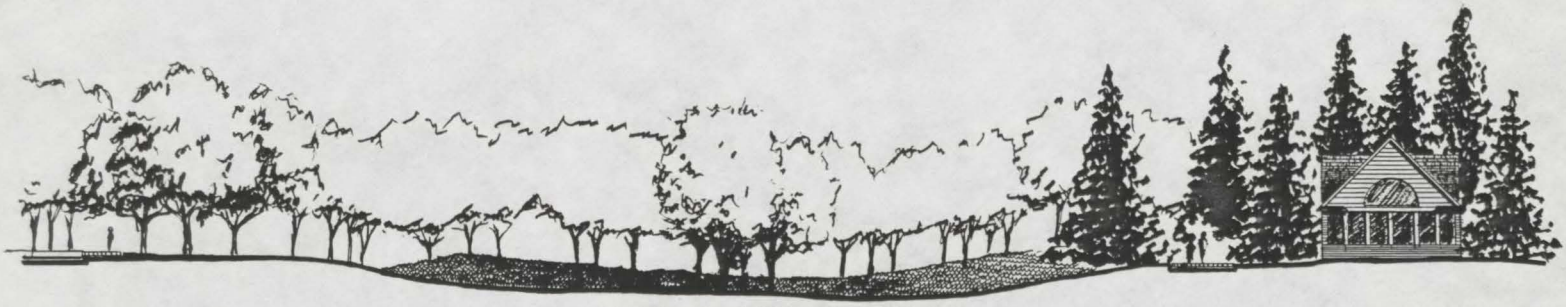
PERSPECTIVE - TO PAVILION IN PICNIC AREA.





SECTION - B KNOLL TO MARSH

SCALE - 1" = 20'



SECTION - C SECONDARY PICNIC AREA

SCALE - 1" = 10'

SAUK RIVER PARK

MELROSE, MINNESOTA

SECTION - PERSPECTIVE

THOMAS J. KERBY

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM
PARK DESIGN 5105

NOVEMBER 20,1989

Jeff Zimmermann

In this design, the Sauk River Park is transformed into a recreational area that provides the Melrose community with space to enjoy sports, picnics, the arts, camping, walking and wildlife observation. The active and natural sections of the park are divided by the main road, trees and strategically placed landforms; yet connected by the pathway system, bridges and creek to provide a diverse center for outdoor recreation.

The active area of the park is located south of the main entry road. The existing softball diamonds are sheltered from the road by landform and vegetation. Split parking areas at the diamond ends of both fields provide convenient access. A shallow creek flanked by natural prairie grasses flows from the north, between the softball fields, down through the playground and picnic area.

The playground area, adjacent to the softball fields, features the existing play equipment. The intermittent creek provides a natural focus for the playground area. A small wooden bridge spans the creek. Expected to be a moist to dry bed most of the summer, the space nevertheless provides adventure for youngsters who want to wander in the wetland grasses and catch frogs.

Nearby, the picnic area has been extended southward, so visitors have direct access to the Sauk River. The campground which was located in the south end of the park is moved northeast along the river so that daytime visitors do not disturb the privacy of the campers when they approach the river. Placed north of the main road, the campsite is still convenient to the softball area, but also secluded for a more natural camping experience.

The southwestern corner of the park nearest downtown Melrose has a natural bowl-shaped landform that can be modified into an amphitheater. Using natural grass seating with small concrete retaining walls to give the area a "stair step" rise, this corner is ideal for summer band concerts and other outdoor performances. The stage area, constructed of a low-maintenance concrete or paving material, would use the Sauk River for background scenery.

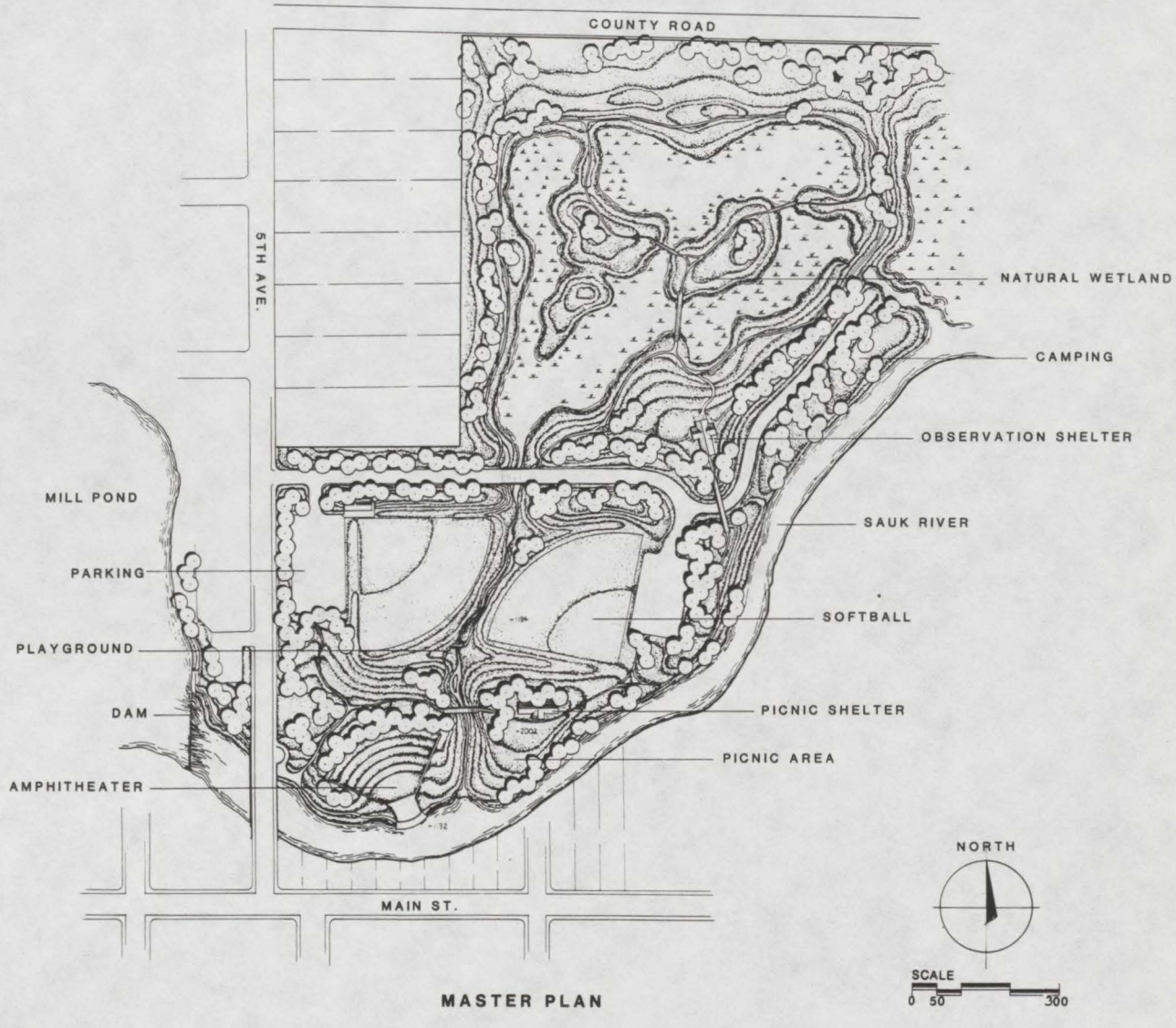
The northern end of the park would be reserved as a natural walking area. The existing fishery pond would be transformed into a wet wildlife area, featuring wetland and upland prairie grasses. Ducks, muskrats and other small wildlife would be encouraged to settle here.

The pathway system of gravel aggregate covered by wood chips would be the most extensive here, winding around the ponds, over short water spans by wooden bridges and leading to the observation shelter. The environment would provide a quiet area for walkers who want some peace from the more intense activities in the south end of the park.

Phase 1 - 0 - 5 years.	Construction of wetland area: landforms, vegetation, shelter and boardwalks.
Phase 2 - 5 - 10 years.	Establish camping area, begin work on south area of park: landform, intermittent stream.
Phase 3 - 10 - 15 years.	Construct shelter (picnic), bridges, play area, furniture, and lighting.
Phase 4 - 15 - 20 years.	Establish trail system, and additional vegetation.

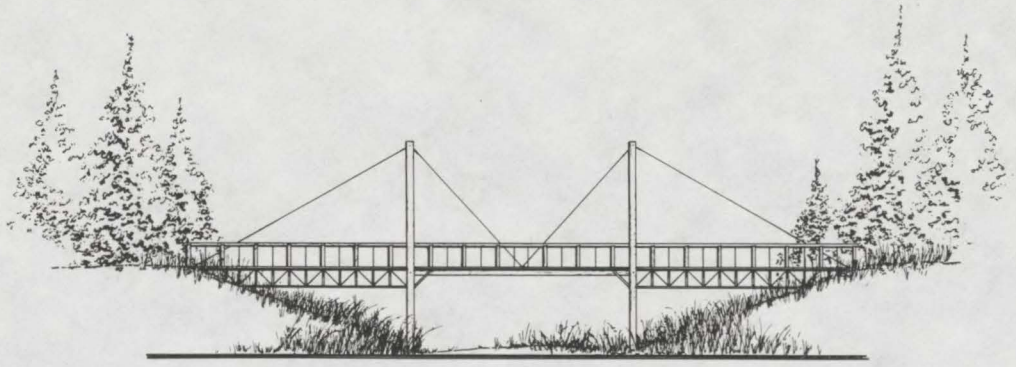
NATURAL WETLAND

PERSPECTIVE



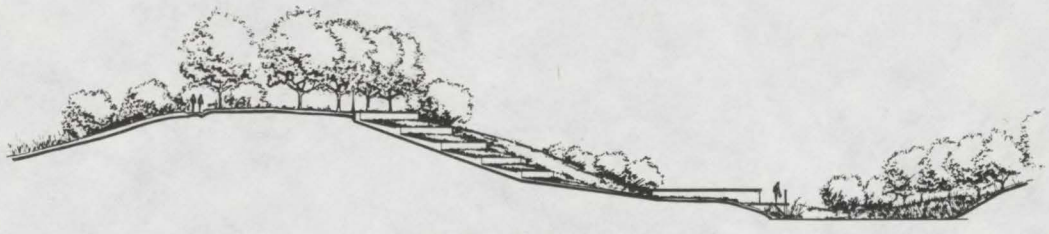
MASTER PLAN

MELROSE, MN. **SAUK RIVER PARK** **ZIMMERMANN**



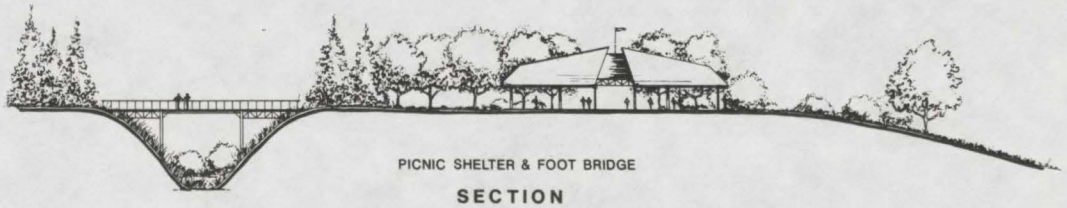
FOOT BRIDGE AT OBSERVATION SHELTER

ELEVATION



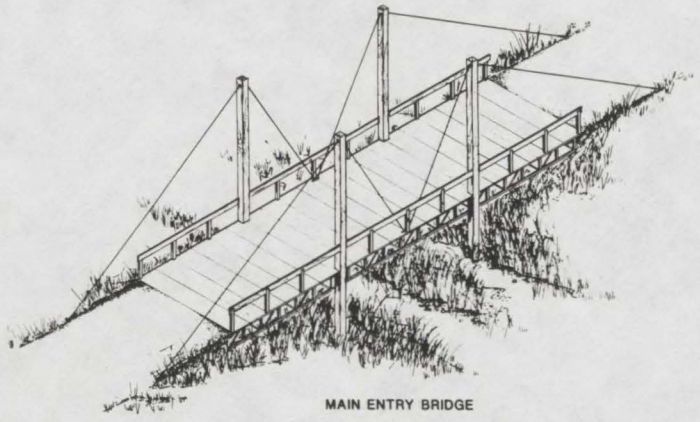
AMPHITHEATER ALONG RIVER

SECTION



PICNIC SHELTER & FOOT BRIDGE

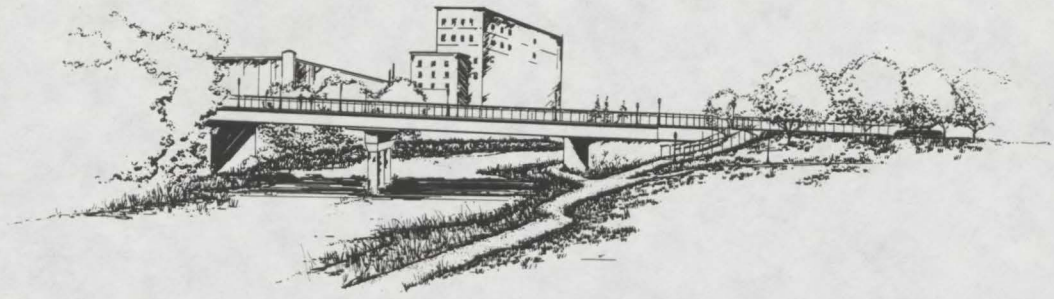
SECTION



MAIN ENTRY BRIDGE

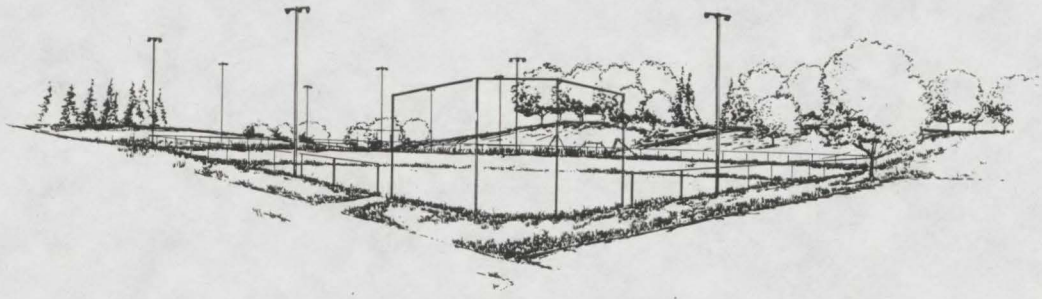
ISOMETRIC

MELROSE, MN. **SAUK RIVER PARK** **ZIMMERMANN**



MAIN PEDESTRIAN ENTRY

PERSPECTIVE



NORTHWEST SOFTBALL FIELD

PERSPECTIVE

ENTRY ROAD & SOFTBALL FIELD

ELEVATION

Jeff McDonell

Melrose's central park offers many experiences to its city. These experiences will be both active and passive, structured or self motivated. The park allows for this to take place in two area, the south end and the north end. While separate in form and space, one may not exist with out the other.

The south end of the park holds the more structured activities such as baseball and rigid walking paths. Entrance to the park occurs in an octagon tower staircase. The octagon element which runs throughout the park is appropriate because it relates to the most dominant element in the skyline of the park, this of course is the Kraft building tower. Ordered pathways are heavily framed by double rows of seedless cottonwood and autumn gold elms. Both pathways, while different in form, allow for previews to the other side of the park across the greenway. These elements of pathways and greenway all deliver you upon the "altar" (the center of the park). Further south, dredging at the bottom of the dam will allow for deeper water for fishing off the existing bridge as well as the proposed bridges over the dam and the dike. Recreation of a functional dike will allow for the retention of deeper water still.

The "altar" is the transition point between the south end of the park and the north. This space acts as a directional hub that delivers people to any of the other areas of the park. When you reach this area the entire north end of the park is revealed in vision and not by structured path. In this area the rigid pathways start to give way to the more natural elements of the park such as the plants and landform. This transition ends when you break out of the forest edge into an open field.

One element that the user becomes immediately aware of when entering the north end of the park is the introduction of winding pathways. Landform and vegetation again play a role in pinching views and even occasionally hiding them only to let them explode into uninterrupted fields of color and complexity. The hills that are created allow for viewing and do so at the top. Two of the main views are of the lake and stage area.

Structures that are introduced are the picnic pavilion, the community center which doubles as a warming house, and a stage ("the altar"). All of these occur in the north end of the park. The picnic pavilion is accessible from the baseball fields. All of these structures derive from the form of the Kraft tower (the octagon).

Implementation of this project should occur in three phases. The order in which they occur should be as follows: Landform, structure and plant material. Each one has its own special concerns and when deciding priorities the most important element should be a plan of low conflict, i.e. putting in the hill before plants.

Since the most positive affect in the plan is the adding of soil to create spatial boundaries, this should be done first. The first area to be worked on should be the southern part of the park. The ball fields should be reoriented and the river edge developed followed by the creation of the bridge in appropriate materials rather than cost effective ones. By creating this Melrose can obtain the premier ball fields in the area early in the plan. Another benefit is the ability to break up the initial cost of the tree plantings. The regrading of the south end will allow for the parking lot to be created which will have a great impact on the level of convenience, as well as greater parking space for the citizens in Melrose.

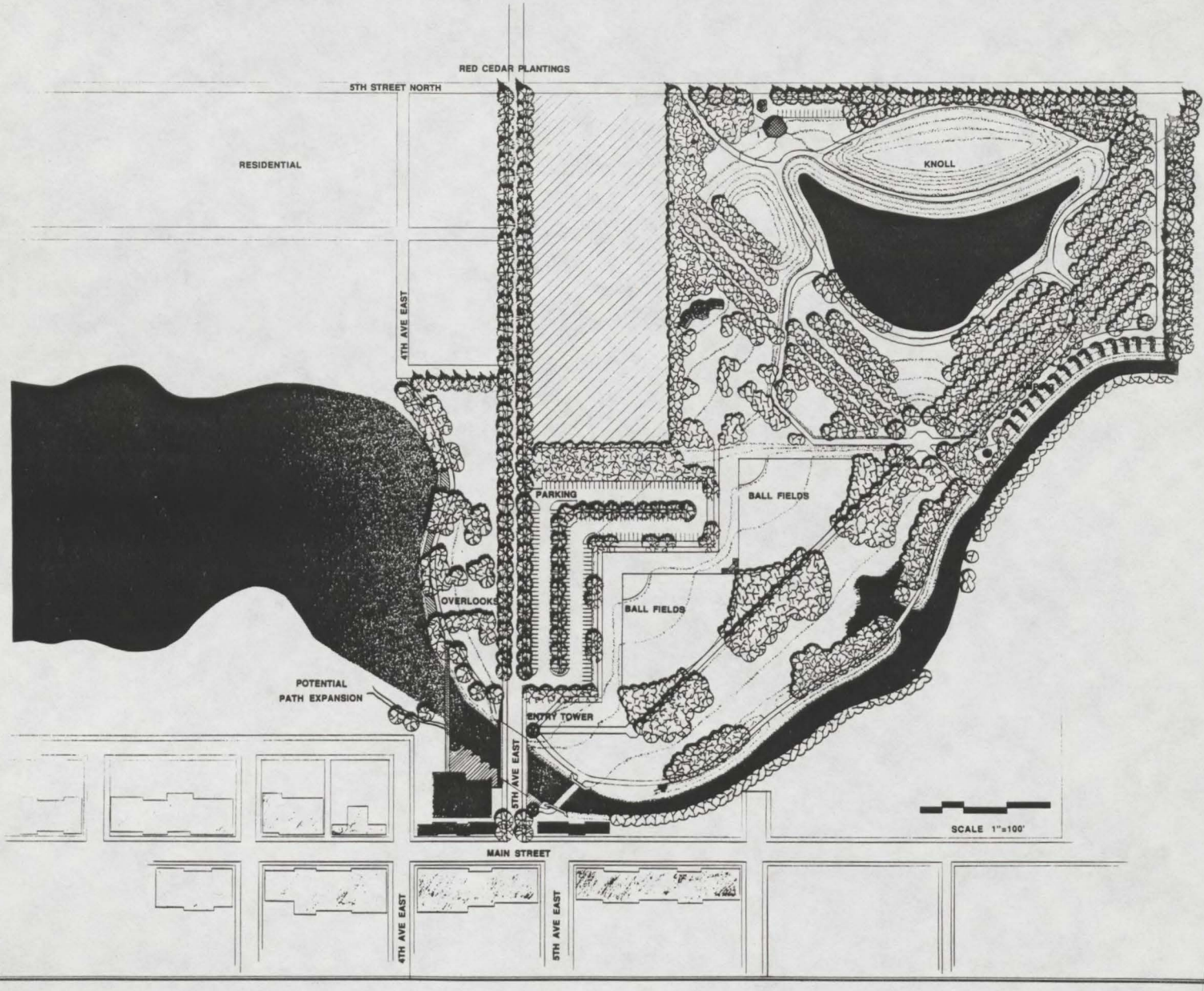
When working on the north end of the park, the structures should be placed at the appropriate elevation first. When filling around these buildings, the soil taken out of the lake should be used to conserve money. These structures can be erected as soon as possible to allow for immediate use of the park. Since structures are the most costly elements in the park, the suggestion of a benefactor may be advisable. As soon as it is appropriate the water feature should be implemented so the ecological systems of the lake can start to be established. After all the fill has settled the trees should be planted. It should be noted that these trees do not and probably should not all be planted at the same size. The purchasing of a tree mover will allow for the donation of trees reducing the financial impact on the city and therefore is strongly recommended.

Section: Park Over Look

SCALE 1"=20'

Section: Alter-Park Relationship

SCALE 1"=20'

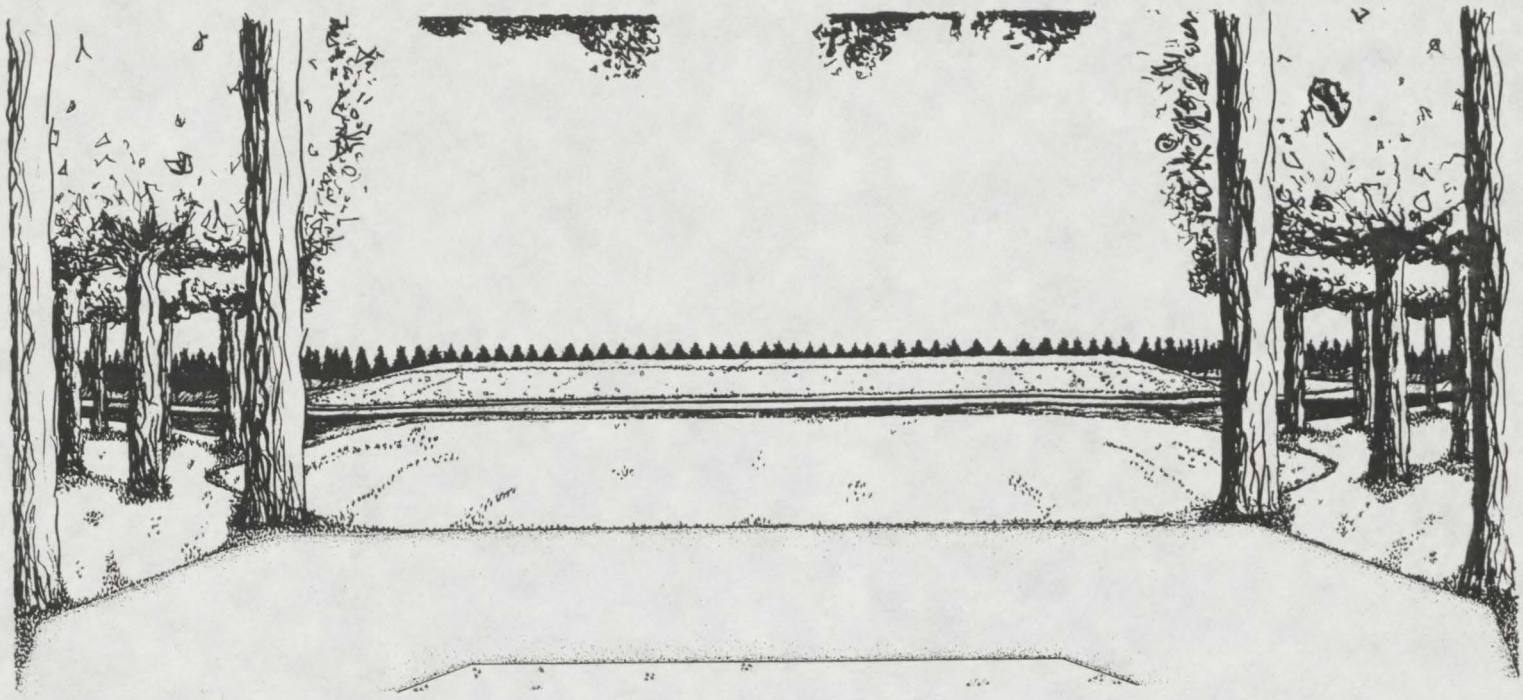


Master Plan

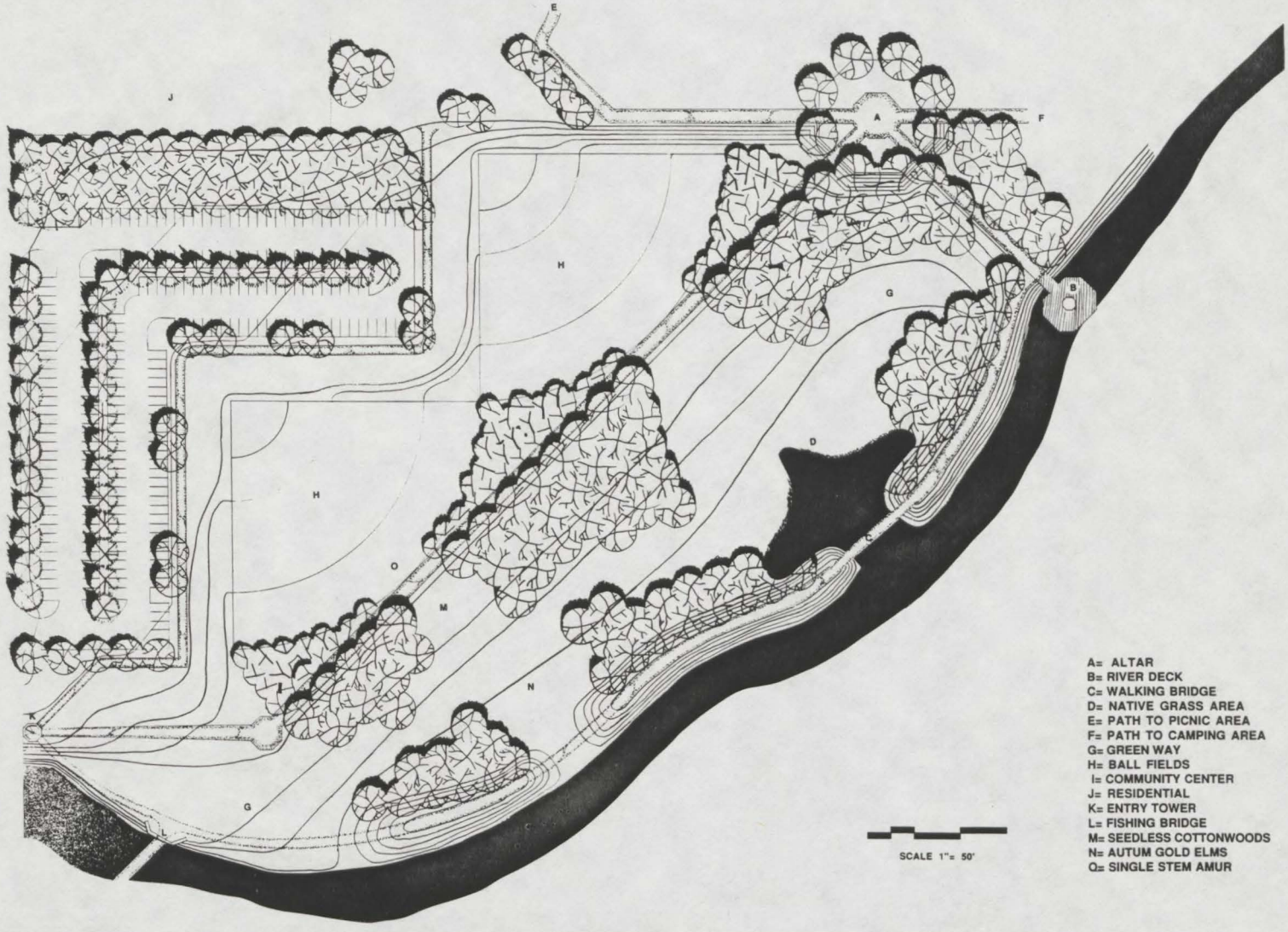
University of Minnesota
Park Design La 5105
Jeff A. Mcdonell

1989, November 20

MELROSE CENTRAL PARK
Melrose, Minnesota



PERSPECTIVE: ALTAR TO DOGWOOD SHRUB-CARR



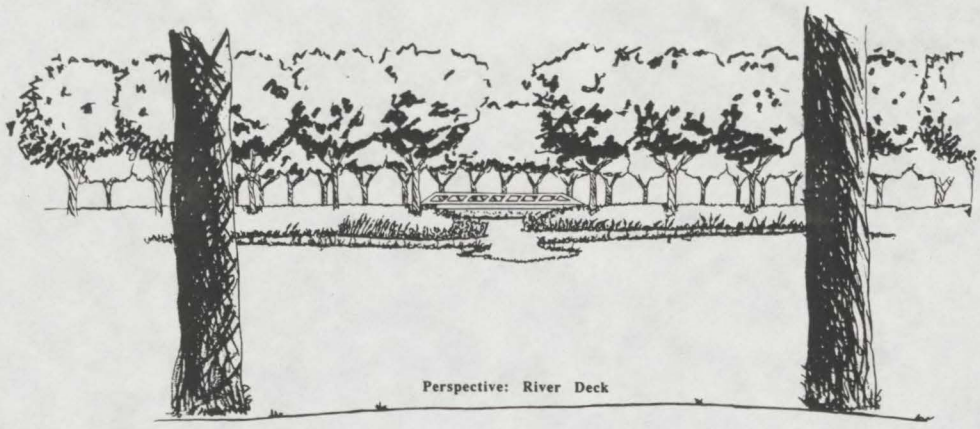
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
PARK DESIGN LA 5105
JEFF A. MCDONELL

50 SCALE PLAN

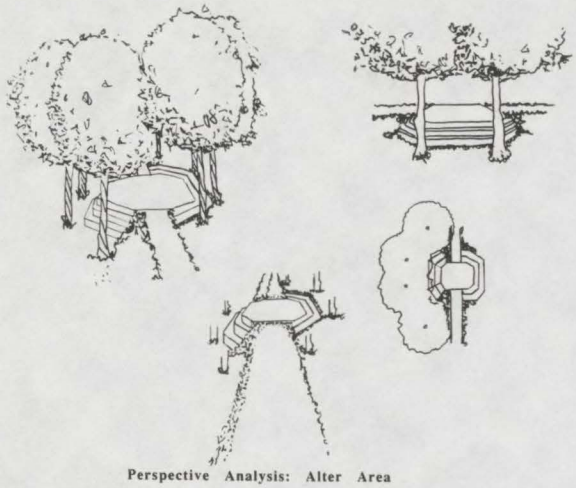
MELROSE CENTRAL PARK

MELROSE, MINNESOTA

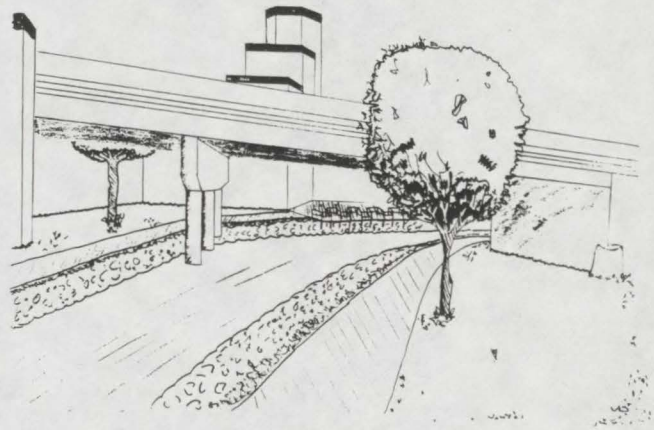
1989, NOVEMBER 20



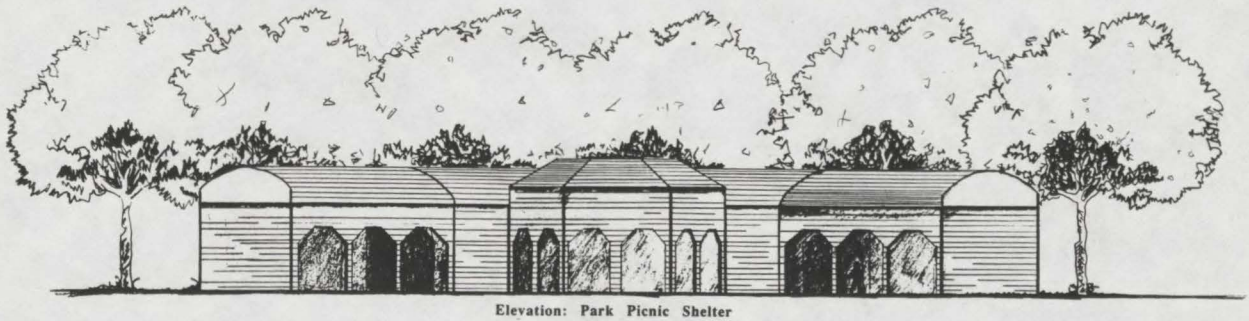
Perspective: River Deck



Perspective Analysis: Alter Area

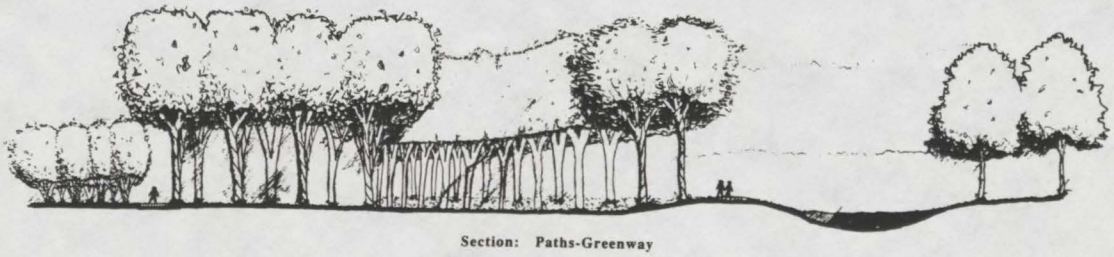


Perspective: Park Entry



Elevation: Park Picnic Shelter

SCALE 1"=20'



Section: Paths-Greenway

SCALE 1"=20'

Section-Perspective Board

University of Minnesota
Park Design La 5105
Jeff A. Mcdonell

MELROSE CENTRAL PARK
Melrose, Minnesota

1989, November 20

APPENDIX A

Appended here is a copy of the survey form that was developed to survey citizens of Melrose about the city, Sauk River Park and their attitudes toward recreation. Following the form are summaries of the responses of approximately 35 residents.

Sauk River Park Survey

As a part of the long-range planning process for Sauk River Park, the city has contracted with the University of Minnesota Center for Community Studies and the Department of Landscape Architecture to provide design assistance. An important part of this work is this survey of Melrose residents' opinions, judgments, and preferences in regard to Sauk River Park.

Please take fifteen minutes to complete this survey:

1) What is/are your favorite place(s) in Sauk River Park and why?

2) Are there parts of the park (excluding the fish-rearing ponds) that do not get used? Please explain.

3) Which conditions, if any, contribute to lack of safety or security in the park?

4) What gives Melrose its identity and how is this identity expressed? How does Sauk River Park contribute to this identity? For example, is there something unique about the park? Please explain.

5) Should Sauk River Park be designed for resident or non-resident use, or both? Should camping be encouraged in the park, and if so, should it remain in its present position along the river? Please explain.

6) In addition to scheduled events and uses in the park for which there are designated facilities and equipment, how is the park used? Indicate those uses that you have observed <u>often</u> with the letter <u>O</u> and those that you have observed <u>seldom</u> with the letter <u>S</u>. Use <u>N</u> for never.

_____archery	_____cross-country skiing	_____music/performance
_____motorbiking	_____frisbee	_____kite flying
_____bicycling	_____running	_____bird watching
_____canoeing	_____pick-up games	_____people watching
_____fishing	_____walking	_____reading
		_____other (please specify)

7) Are there gathering spaces or attractions which border the park that contribute, or could contribute, to the life of the park? How?

8) What leisure opportunities or recreational activities are not currently provided for in Melrose? For example, when people spend leisure time outside of Melrose, what attracts them away?

9) What aspects, parts, or areas of the park should be re-designed, and what should be the results? Please identify more than one aspect.

10) Would the citizens of Melrose be willing to raise private dollars to add to the annual average budget for Sauk River Park (about $12,000) to implement a long-range plan?___ What should be the goal of such a fundraising effort? Please check one.

___$50,000 ___$75,000 ___$100,000 ___$125,000 ___Over $125,000

Biographical data (optional)

Age ___13-20
___21-35
___36-50
___51-65
___over 65

Sex ___male ___female

Occupation_____

Please return this survey by October 20 to:

Department of Landscape Architecture
205 North Hall
2005 North Buford Drive
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, MN 55108
ATTN: Lance Neckar

If you have additional comments, please use the back of this page.

APPENDIX B

The ten designs for Sauk River Park in this booklet were presented to members of the City Council, Park Board and other interested citizens of Melrose on November 20, 1989. An earlier and somewhat abridged form of this document was handed out to the twenty some attendees that evening.

There were some questions, particularly related to budget and to technical issues of bringing water to the fish rearing pond area. Emphasis was placed on the long-range nature of the designs.

There had also been two interim review (on October 25 and November 10) of the designs, but only Jim Wagoner had been able to attend the earlier meeting. At that point, he indicated some enthusiasm for each of the ten directions, and this enthusiasm drove the elaboration of the basic concepts that is present in the final design.

Question # 1. This question was related to favorite place(s) in Sauk River Park and it asked why these places were favored.

# of Responses

12 — 1.) River - Reasons: Back to nature, fishing, dam, water quiet relaxing area, symbol of Melrose.

10 — 2.) Shelter (Picnic Area) - Reasons: Summer outings, family reunions.

8 — 3.) Softball - Reasons: Playing, community competition, watching.

7 — 4.) Playground.

Question #2. This question was about parts of the park (excluding the fish-rearing pond) that do not get used.

At least two places do not get used definitely. They are basketball court and north-east corner.

Several places as listed below get used seldom, although there are some conflicts in the answers in the survey.

1.) East of softball diamond.
2.) Some fixed picnic tables.
3.) Far eastern corner.
4.) West of the lion's shelter.
5.) The west side where they put up circus tents.
6.) Tenting area.

People did not explain the reason that some places did not get used.

Question #3. This question related to which conditions, if any, contribute to lack of safety or security in the park.

* Open area by the river.
* No security gate at entrance.
* Edge of river. Fast water.

* Children's playground by river.
* Night lighting.
* Parking & traffic congestion.
* Softball fly-balls hitting children's playground - proximity to ballfields.
* No safe walkway between dam & park.
* Unsupervised overnight camping.
* The steep drop from bridge approach.
* Fact that park can't be closed at night.
* Parking lots - drug exchange.
* Old dam area.
* Jennie-O's night shift parties.
* Hard to supervise children's playground.
* No day supervision.

The river is the area most citizens were concerned about in terms of safety. Most were concerned about children; the close proximity of the playground to both the river and the softball fields.

Another major concern was the fact that the park is open all night and that camping is unsupervised.

Question #4. This question is related to Melrose's identity, and asks how this identity is expressed. The answers ranged from specific places or landmarks in Melrose (church steeple) to more culturally based answers of family and industry. Specifically, of the 29 responses, 28% answered that the River (Sauk River) as what gives Melrose its identity. In relation to the river, the dam also was a major factor in the survey responses. Other top responses were the represented industries within Melrose; including Kraft and Jennie-O. Furthermore, the people of Melrose defined the identity through what was explained as their genuine concern, pride and caring. This related to further answers of cultural connections with German heritage and the "church".

The question further asked if Sauk River Park contributed to Melrose's identity, and if it did, how does it contribute. Once again, many, in fact 24%, stated the river and the dam defined the park and Melrose. There were associated answers in response to specific uses in the park. For example, softball and camping were identified as unique features of the park. Also, social events of the park such as softball tournaments, 4th of July, and family reunions gave definition. Main Street and its proximity seemed to be a prominent factor in defining the Park and Melrose. Thus, Sauk River Park is integral to Melrose's identity because what defines Melrose also is identified with the Park.

Question #5. This question, related to the camp sites, asked if they should be for resident or non-resident use. Eighty-five percent of those surveyed said that camping should be opened to both.

Two of the more popular opinions were: 1.) Expansion would bring more money to the park, and 2.) Relatives from out of town frequently use them. In addition to the opinions above, the concern was noted that if the sites were redesigned, they should be moved north. If the number of the sites were increased as well, they should be moved away from the river to preserve the river's edge.

Question #6. This question attempts to find out how the park is currently used for unstructured activities. Of the 33 surveys returned, we found fishing, walking and pick-up games to occur most often in the existing park. Frisbee, cross country skiing, running, music/performances, kite-flying, canoeing, bicycling, reading and bird watching were also observed, but less frequently.

Question #7. In answer to question seven about edge conditions, most people surveyed feel that one or more of the following areas contribute or could contribute to the life of the park: the dam, the Kraft building, the high school, the commercial district, the fish pond and the river. Most related specific events or activities to their answers. For example, many people wrote about skating or fishing on the mill pond.

Question #8. Most answers to question eight mentioned activities, events and in some cases, towns or cities that drew people away from Melrose. The towns include St. Cloud and Alexandria and were mentioned because they provide movies, restaurants, hotels, swimming, bike paths, performances and other similar public gatherings and recreational activities for residents and visitors.

Question #9. This question asked about parts of the park that need re-design.

Most responses mentioned campground relocation, need for band shelter or area for performances, more open space for games, areas for walking, and bridge connecting park to the new City Hall area.

Question #10. On the question of money, answers varied greatly. Still there was a majority of people that felt that at least $50,000 should be spent on the park, fifteen people favored $50,000; two people suggested $75,000; three suggested $100,000; and one suggested $235,000. Three of the people had question marks and one commented "I doubt it".

It should also be noted that this question was directed at a five year plan, and one conclusion might be that if a fifty year plan was proposed more money might be acceptable.

Biographical data showed fifteen residents in the age range of 36-50 took the survey. Six people age 51-65 filled out the survey with two people 65 and over also contributing. Five residents 21-35 years took the survey. (The remainder of those surveyed were too embarrassed to state their age!) Nineteen males and fourteen females were questioned with a great diversity ranging from housewives to administrators.